DEAD PLATE
ARTBOOK

© 2024 Studio Investigrave

DEAD PLATE
ARTBOOK

Contents

INTRO 06

Opening 09
Origins 10
Early Development 13

ASSETS 18

In-game Sprites 20
Talking Sprites 24
Shop Catalogue 30
UI + Title Screens 32
Food Sprites 36
Reward Dishes 40

MAPS 48

The Bistro 50
Rody's Apartment 53
Vince's Apartment 56

CGs 60

Nightmare CGs 77

CHARACTERS 82

Rody 84
Vince 90
Manon 94
Relationships 98
Their Social Lives 163
Upbringings 168

STORY 184

Endings 195
Alternative Endings 212

AUs 234

Monster AU 235
Zombie Outbreak AU 250
Demon AU 258
Cowboy AU 266
Mermaid AU 268
Misc. AUs 270
Body Swap AU 274

OUTRO 279

DEAD
PLATE

INTRO

SALE!
FRESH·RODY

Opening

Thank you for purchasing the Dead Plate Art Book!

You will notice that a lot of the early concepts and dynamics between characters you are about to read will be vastly different from how the final game of Dead Plate turned out to be as a lot of things had to be changed and left out to meet the time frame and story structure of the game.

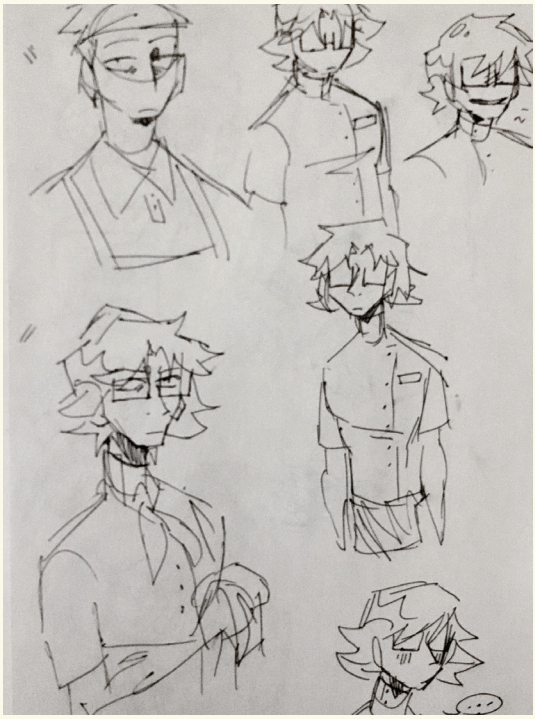
You may also notice the style and content of the art fluctuate, sometimes containing contradicting information—this is due to the fact that the sketches were drawn over the course of several months in 2023 and are organized here mainly by content rather than chronologically.

We hope you enjoy all the ways in which Dead Plate could've turned out differently, how the final game came to reality, what was going on behind the scenes during development, and just whatever leftover Dead Plate-related files we had left piled up back in storage!

Origins

Dead Plate started out as just a fun side exploration of a duo idea between an obsessive chef and a newly employed waiter we had, and it wasn't until later that the idea of developing the characters and their setting further for a more coherent story was brought onto the table.

Vince was designed to be an obsessive chef from the get-go. The idea of an unprofessional waiter who snuck food and a strict cook who couldn't taste or enjoy his own cooking was intriguing so we followed that theme.



Rough sketches of Vince by Rix.

Rody was designed to match with that character idea—but he wasn't originally a waiter. There were many possibilities we played with as positions Rody could've ended up as:

- Fast food worker
- Fisher
- Dish washer
- Food delivery person
- Van Driver
- Childhood friend
- Dine and dash-er
- Ex

The characters of Rody and Vince grew over the course of multiple joint—sketching sessions during several months before it was decided to turn their story into a game. During each of these sessions, each of us would add new traits or backgrounds to the duo which eventually evolved into who they are now.

talking abt his gf
You must get a lotta ladies, huh?
If you need it, please be free to stay here. You can stay in one of my Guest bedrooms
was preparing to sleep in the cardboard box
Terrible insight - Lost the Contracts
His Baggy turtleneck's STEAM
What's ur favorite food
HMUF MUH?
(Just one?)
I've always wanted to open a food truck...
Is this real?
Let's do?
Eh, Im not that hungry- you can finish it if you want
You haven't even touched it...
You're not gonna change me are you--
Yeah ofc, I have been a chef
Which table was this again—
Can't be me...
Vampire AU..
Is something wrong?
THEN SHE LEFT ME!!!
Hasn't Cried in 2024 yet
trauma changing during work
My date's next week!!
Could you give me a raise? I'll do anything!!
ABOUT TO THROW UP
Seduce me.
LITTLE AR GH-
YOU???
gentle

They weren't originally designed to exist in the 60's so there are a few sketches of them using smartphones or wearing modern clothing—but we soon realized a more vintage time period would really fit their aesthetic and the story.

Early Development

Initial sketches of the game logo.

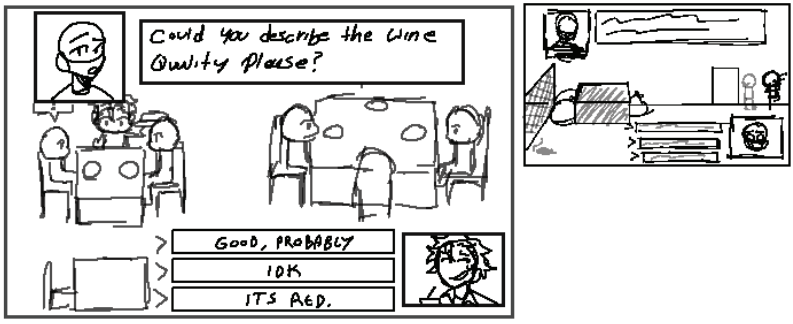
The original main pitch was that the game would be a psychological horror/thriller game about a clueless victim and cannibalistic chef duo disguised as a waiter tycoon game set in a 1960's French restaurant where every level/shift is timed and you try to make as many tips as possible in the time.

You, the player, are Rody—a waiter working this job to make enough money to take his girlfriend out to a nice dinner with a twist being that she's already broken up with him.

Vince is set up as the tutorial and helper character who gives you advice and is the one explaining different aspects of the game to you.
After each shift, if you do well you're given a dish made by Vincent as thanks and your earnings for that day are based on how many customers you served. Then at the end of each day you see a short and simple cutscene play before the next shift [i.e. him brushing his teeth, taking a bus to work, calling his girlfriend, dreaming of food] and as the shifts go on these cutscenes would eventually become the nightmare sequences of him being eaten.

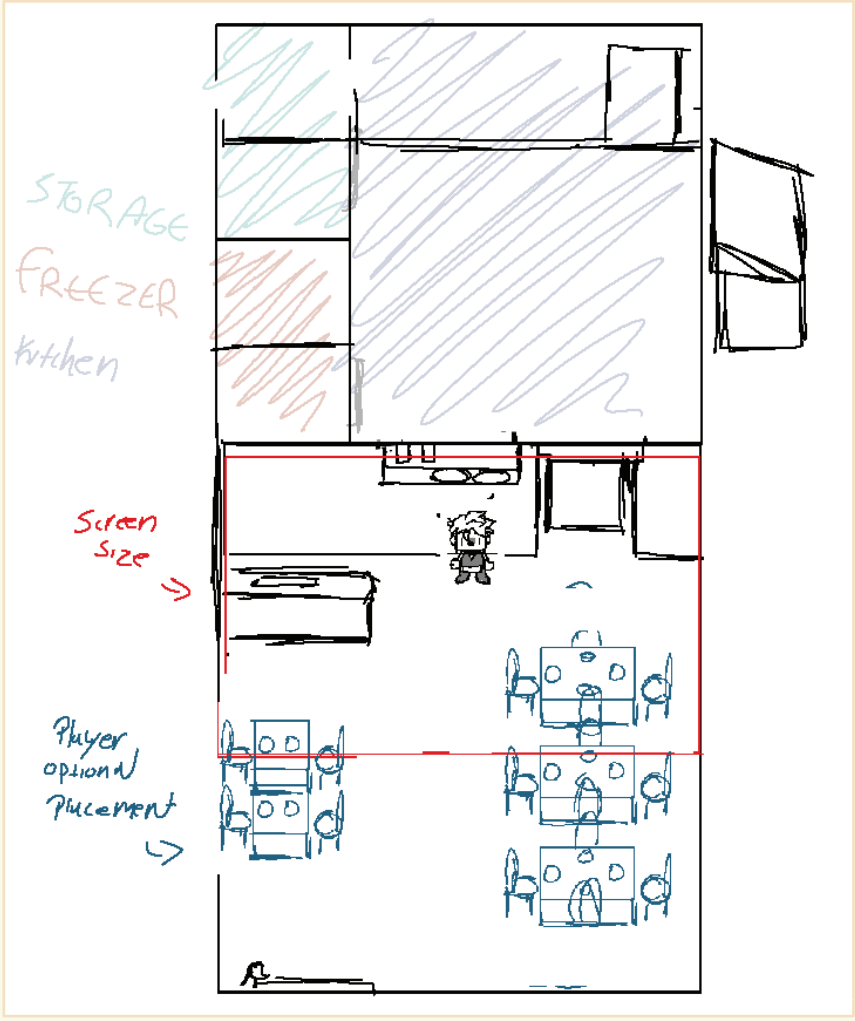
HORROR THEME

The horror aspects don't start explicitly coming up until later shifts but things were meant to start feeling just generally off. For instance, one day the cute food you're given to show you did a good job is replaced by something rotten or uncooked but the same triumphant jingle plays. The trash you take out is leaking something red. When taking out the trash you can see Vince smoking and if you try to talk to him he's snappy and annoyed despite only seeming like the casual confident and nice tutorial character. After your shift ends it's meant to move on to the next level, the music stops and you're still in the restaurant. The lights are all off and nobody else is there but there's a timer in the corner like you're doing a regular shift. There's nothing scary, nobody is attacking you, and you're just alone in the restaurant at night when the level's meant to be over. You can use this time to explore areas that were once off limits like the freezer or to look through cabinets or even steal money from the cash register if you want—but once the timer's over it just goes on to the next level like normal.



Many of these ideas were never used and the pitch changed throughout the process but the brainstorming process of seeing how things could slowly deteriorate helped greatly with establishing the tone we wanted to go for.

PLAYER CONTROL



We wanted the gameplay to be similar to other existing restaurant tycoon games with a cute top-down pixel style.

We had to come to a lot of compromises to make the development of the game as realistic as possible so in the end this idea ended up being scrapped but there was initially more player control in how the restaurant was operated. We wanted to give players the basic layout of the restaurant but as the game went on you would theoretically be able to change where things were placed which would then affect your gameplay when serving customers, such as moving where the tables went and affecting the amount of seating to get more people in a table.

Making the success or failure of a day partially reliant on your planning and placement of items could be frustrating but would allow for player creativity and strategy to be more prominent. Having more tables would be more difficult to navigate around but could seat more people waiting, having more booths would encourage bigger groups to come, etc. It would still have strict limitations but would allow players to feel more invested in the restaurant and like they were responsible for certain aspects of gameplay.

To bounce off the idea of more player control, we liked the idea of the gameplay from the earlier moments of the game affecting the horror aspects later on. Potential for moments like the way you set up the restaurant earlier affecting how easily you can escape something chasing you in that same layout, or an item you used to make things easier when serving people was necessary to escape and you used it up earlier. Or something you got rid of/sold to pay for something else in the restaurant could've been used to help you now. An idea that did end up making it into the final game was an upgrade item that does nothing for the tycoon section but is necessary for one of the good endings. Not all of it was able to make it in but we felt the inclusion of the matches helped add that layer of player choice where giving up a large sum of cash for an item that's useless to the actual tycoon could be an interesting incentive.

ASSETS / SPRITES

In-game Sprites

INITIAL DESIGNS

Design Notes
- Cute, but doesn't have enough space to give proper movement of the body and information can easily be lost
- Pallette is maybe too light for the environment- Add more contrast but keep the shading the same
- Simplify hair details some more- keep the messiness without having a million lines to define it

First things first, we had to come up with designs on how the characters would look in-game. We each came up with our own iterations of the in-game sprites of the characters—and there ended up being an obvious clash in style where Rach's iteration was too detailed while Rix's iteration was too simplistic.

Design Notes
- Cute!! Good chibi designs
- The emotions on them are really fun and characterized but It'd be nice to get a more blank version so we don't have to come up with different animations or poses for the in-game sprites. Rely on character portraits to see emotions during story scenes and dialogue with customers but let the actual sprites be less intense
- Simplify the lighting/lineart for them? Specifically on Rody's hair and apron, some of the lighting is intense to the point of confusion on shape/form and could be annoying to animate as is

After making notes and compromises between the two, Rix eventually came up with a design that perfectly blends the different art directions together for the final sprite.

A: Original Rachel design colors. good contrast, love these colors but with new design the shadow might be too harsh
B: Original Rachel design colors. [no shadow] One of my favorites, Really like the how these colors have contrast but are still clear in their silhouettes
C: New colors, not sure If I'll stick with them but I like this one a lot too. Softer shadow on the face so details are still visible but still adding a unique bit of intrigue to the design
D: New colors without the shadow, this ones fine too

Final color test with food for in-game sprite design.

INITIAL DESIGNS

An idea to implement achievements in the game came up at one point and we thought it'd be fun to have it as a form of customizable cosmetics where players are free to dress Rody up via the messy dresser in Rody's apartment.

This idea unfortunately had to be put on hold as we were focusing on perfecting essential mechanics of the game but these were the different outfit ideas we had:

Casual Outfit
Default in apartment

Expensive Suit
Perfected the tycoon run, making all possible tips

Chef Outfit
Never be late for a meal

Fast Food Waiter Uniform
Order takeout every single day in the apartment

1960's Biker Outfit
Constantly be on the move/be sprinting during the entirety of one shift

Bunny Outfit
Answer every single customer questions right

THE REST OF THEM

After Rody's sprite was finally figured out, we then used him to sample off the base for the rest of the game characters such as Vince, the cooks, and the customers.

Customer Base
+
Customer Example

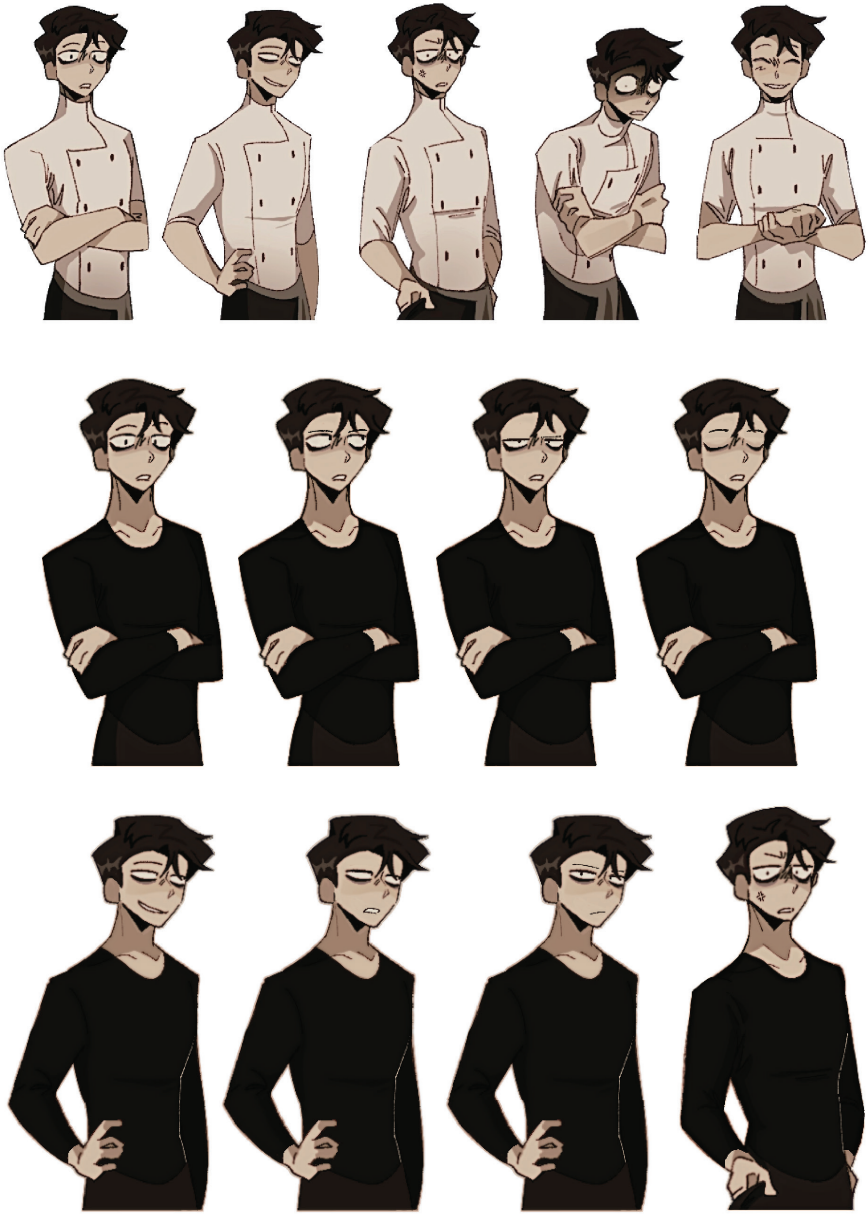
The customers were heavily inspired and designed after different vintage magazines and photos that showcased still fancy but not too overly dramatic fashion styles during the 1960's, especially in France.

Talking Sprites

Initial sketches of Rody's talking sprites.

Final collage of Rody's talking sprites.

Initial sketches of Vince's talking sprites.

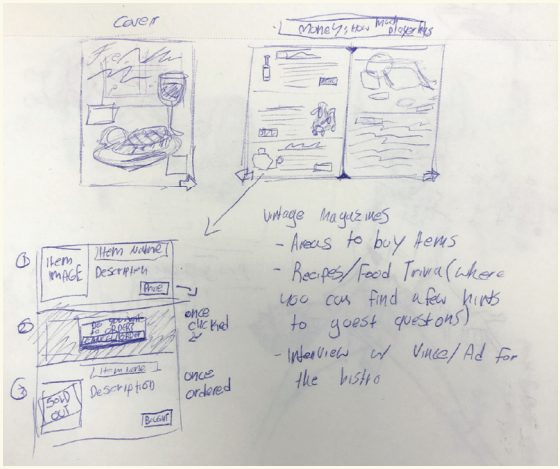


Final collage of Vince's talking sprites.

Collage of all the different customers' portrait sprites.

Collage of Vince's dinner party guests' portrait sprites.

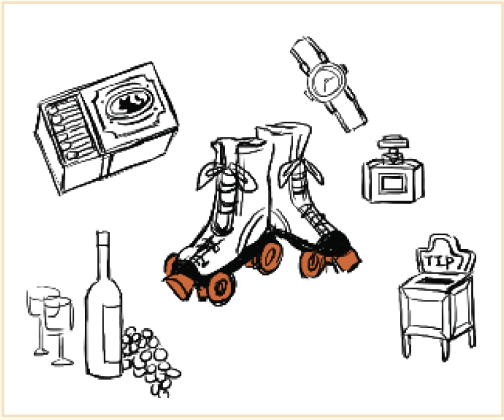
Shop Catalogue



Initial concept sketches of the Shop UI.

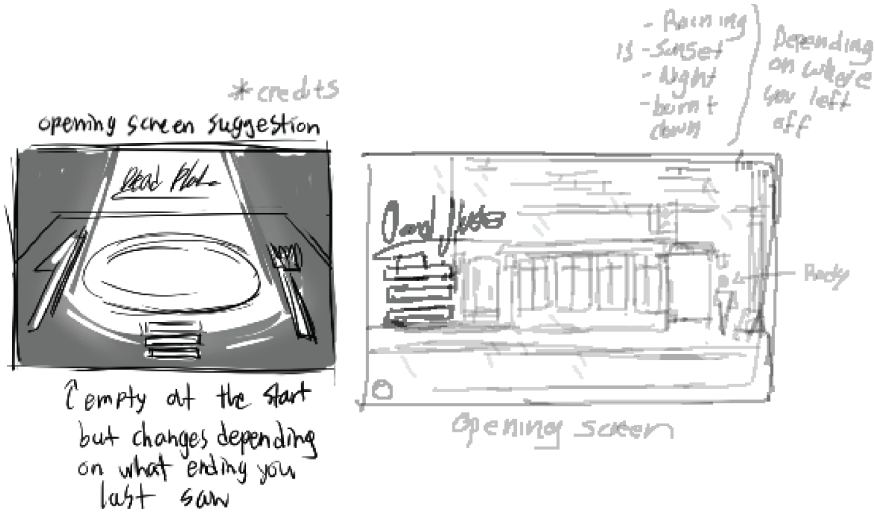
The art direction/ concept behind the shop feature in Dead Plate was for it to be a catalog so it feels more like an actual magazine you're ordering the items from.

We wanted the in-game reason you could get hints and restaurant items to be from the catalog to feel more diegetic. This was also partially based on the gameplay that customers could ask questions and tip better depending on your culinary knowledge which could be gained from reading interviews and notes from the magazine. We also wanted to include a little detail where the back has a few adverts for job listings with Vince's place circled with a red pen since he was featured as a well-paying owner in his interview.



Concept sketches of the available items.

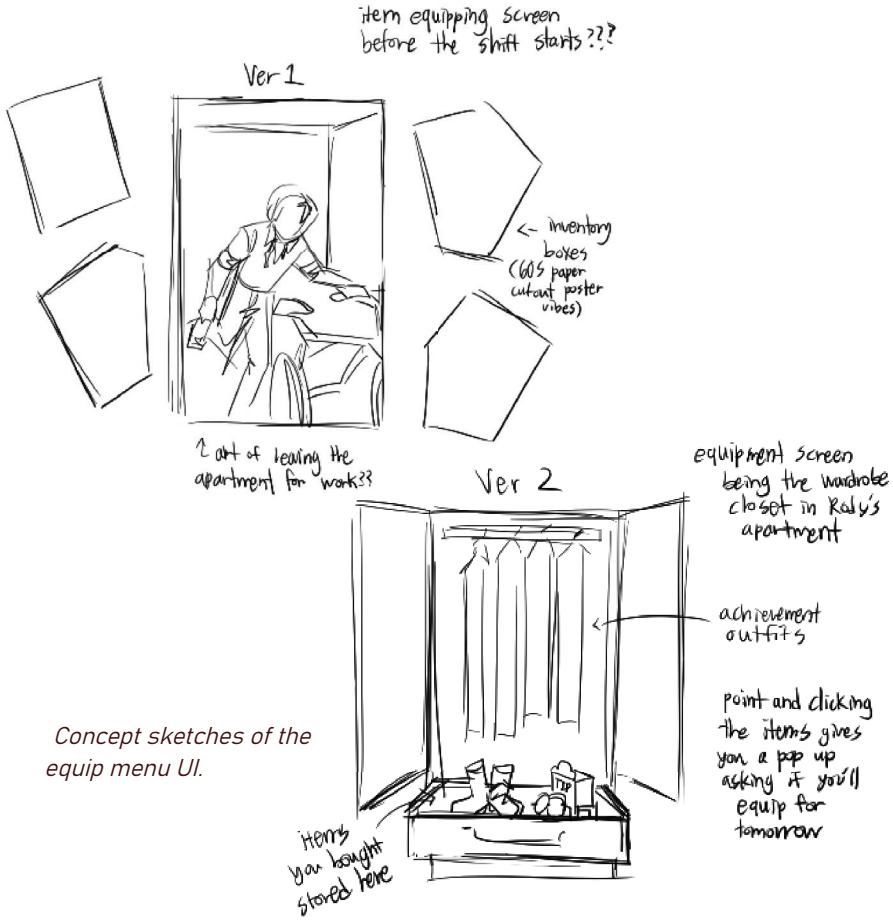
UI / Title Screens



Concept sketches of title screens.

TYCOON UI
in-game timer for shift (cooking timer then need?)
DAY 4
amount of money you've made for this shift
which/ how many meal tickets you have on person
x2
x3

Concept sketches of the tycoon UI.


item equipping screen before the shift starts???
Ver 1
inventory boxes (60's paper cutout poster vibes)
↑ act of leaving the apartment for work??
Ver 2
equipment screen being the wardrobe closet in Rob's apartment
achievement outfits
point and clicking the items gives you a pop up asking if you'll equip for tomorrow
items you bought stored here

Concept sketches of the equip menu UI.

Concept sketches of the fridge.

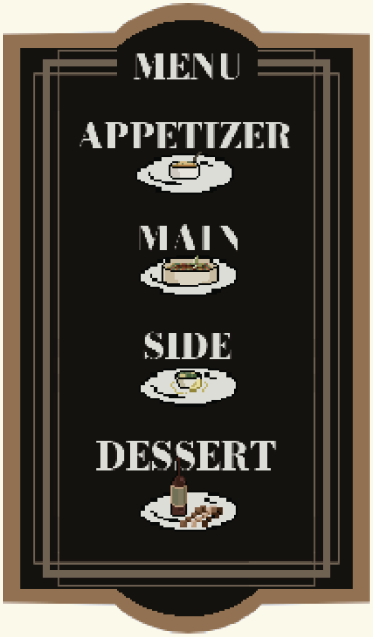
DEAD PLATE
MENU
La Gueule de Saturne

DEAD PLATE
MENU
La Gueule de Saturne

Title screens throughout the week.

Food Sprites

The appetizers, meals, sides, and desserts you serve to customers each day during the Tycoon section of the game were curated to include more meat-based and visually red-looking meals as the day progresses—and by the end of the game (Day 7) all the meals would be consisting of meat. The desserts were also specifically selected based on their red, bloody-looking visuals to contribute to the horror aesthetics of the game.



DAY 1 MENUS

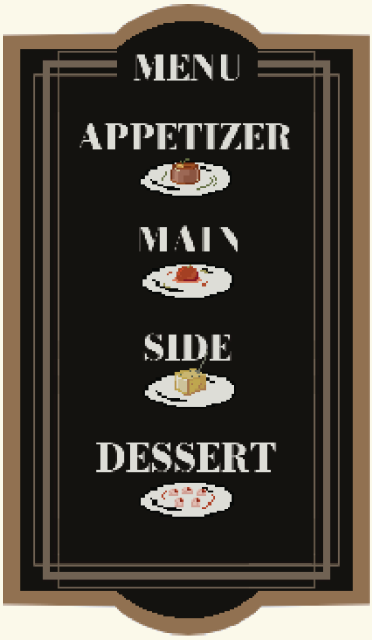
Appetizer	Soupe à l'oignon
Main	Ratatouille
Side	Broccoli kale salad with lemon dressing
Dessert	Red wine chocolate truffles

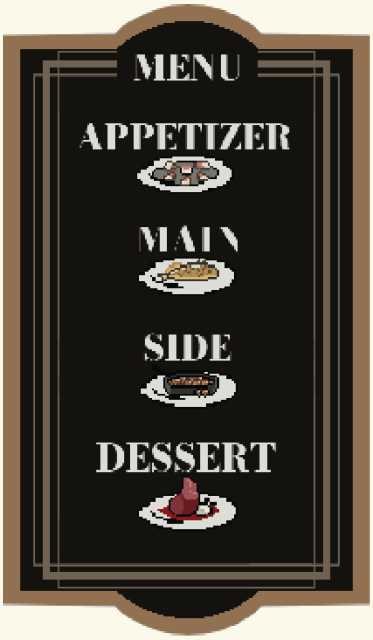
Made to have no meat with very little red in the color palette.

DAY 2 MENUS

Appetizer	Oeufs en gelée
Main	Poivrons a la tomate
Side	Gratin dauphinois
Dessert	Raspberry meringues

Technically had no meat but offered eggs as a main course.





DAY 3 MENUS

Appetizer	Shucked oysters with mignonette sauce
Main	Sole meunière
Side	Sauteed mushrooms
Dessert	Poached pears in red wine

Fish has now been added to the menu.

DAY 4 MENUS

Appetizer	Smoked salmon canapes
Main	Coq au vin
Side	Roasted asparagus with balsamic vinegar
Dessert	Strawberries in champagne with crème chantilly

Is around when Manon is dead with the red color becoming more intense.

DAY 5 MENUS

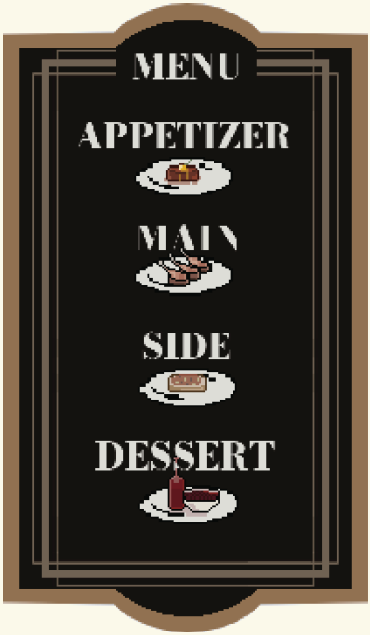
Appetizer	Jambon rouleaux de chèvre
Main	Foie gras
Side	French bread
Dessert	Rhubarb/pomegranate molasses crème brûlée

Inclusion of Foie gras.

DAY 6 MENUS

Appetizer	Paté en croute
Main	Tête de veau
Side	Caviar
Dessert	Apple galette

Includes many dishes reminiscent of haute cuisine, also includes lots of dishes that focus on raw meat.



DAY 7 MENUS

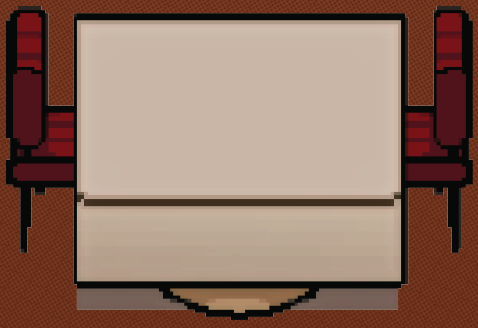
Appetizer	Steak tartare
Main	Lamb chops with a cognac dijon cream sauce
Side	Toast cannibale
Dessert	Red wine plums

Almost entirely meat, all red color palette.

Reward Dishes

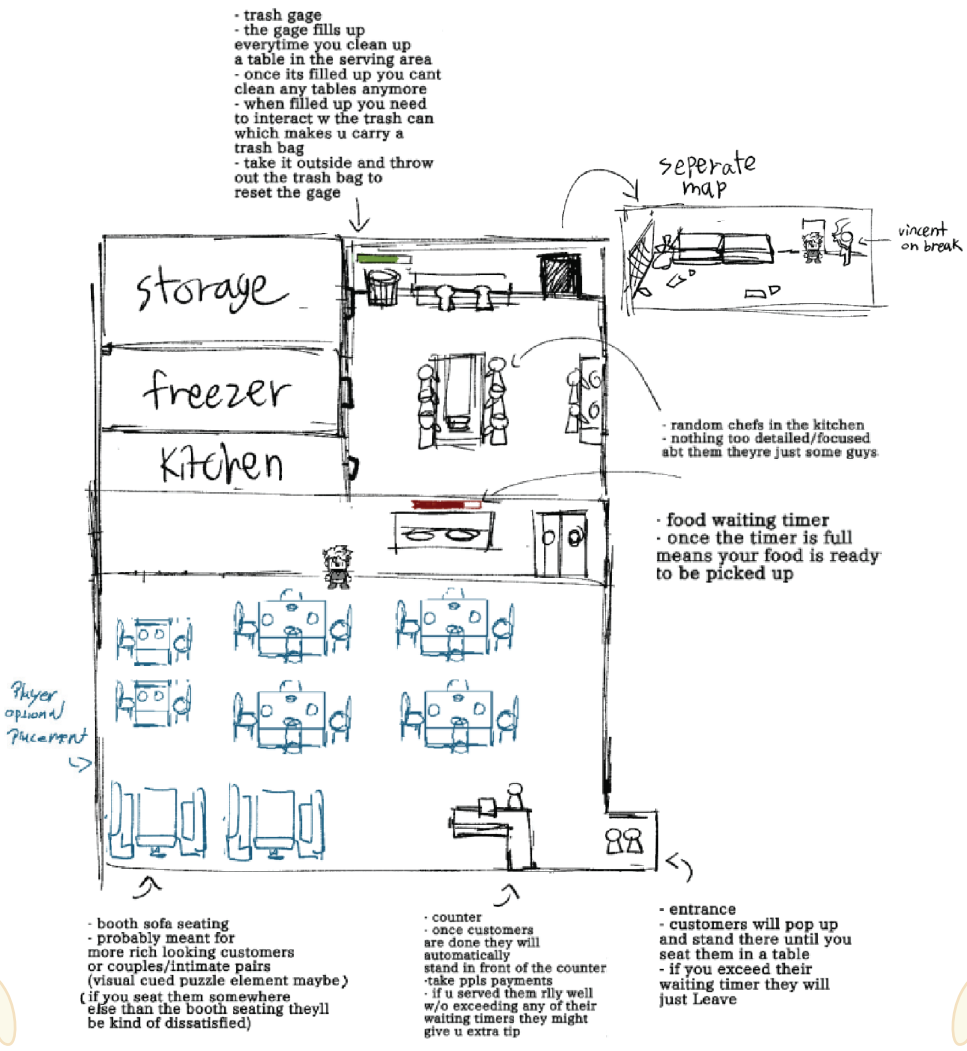
The idea behind the rat dish was that if you fed the rat it would think the kitchen was safe, Vince would see it and be upset Rody let it stay and feeds it to him as punishment. Whereas if you scare it off it would know the kitchen was dangerous and scurry away before Vince could find it. We wanted it to mirror the things Rody lets get close to him ending up being the things Vince would kill and use to hurt him.

The heart dish was specifically coal-fired as a nod to Vince's last name Charbonneau, which roughly translates to coal.

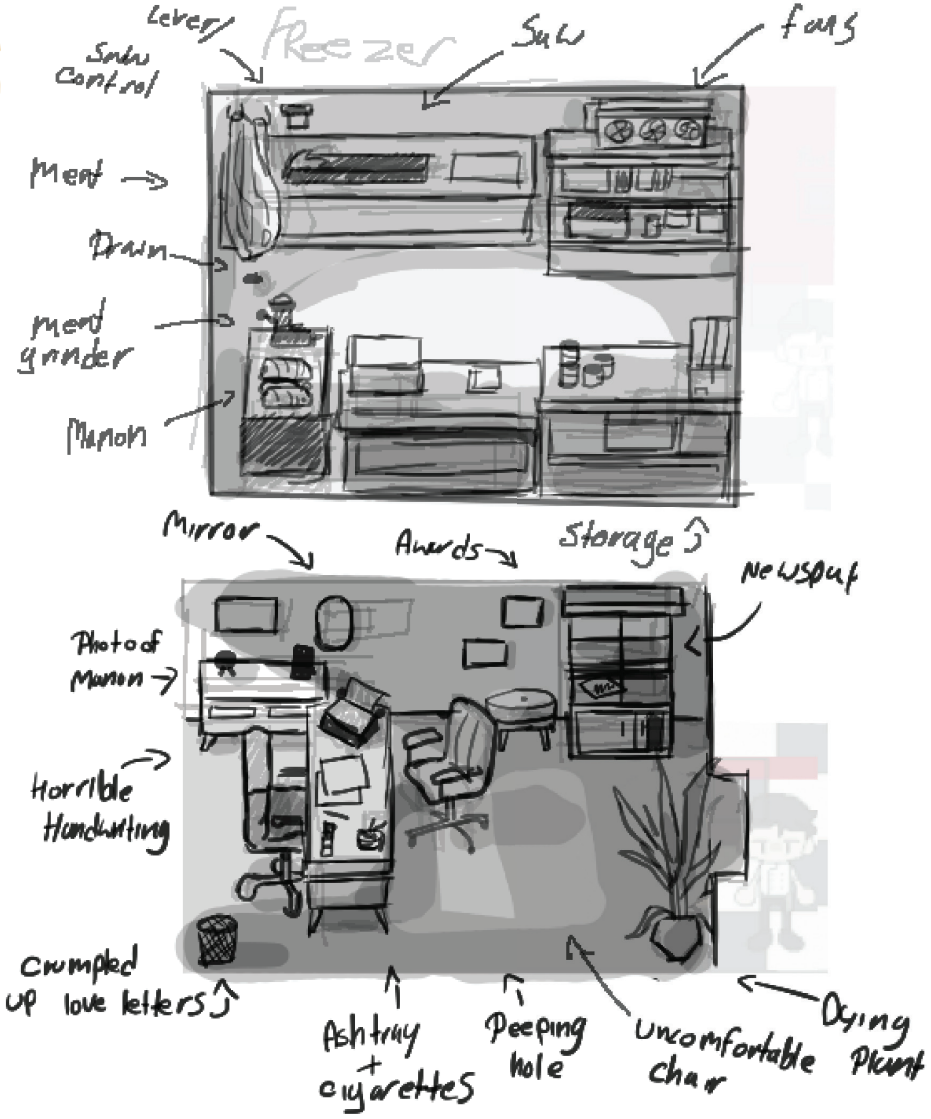


MAPS

The Bistro

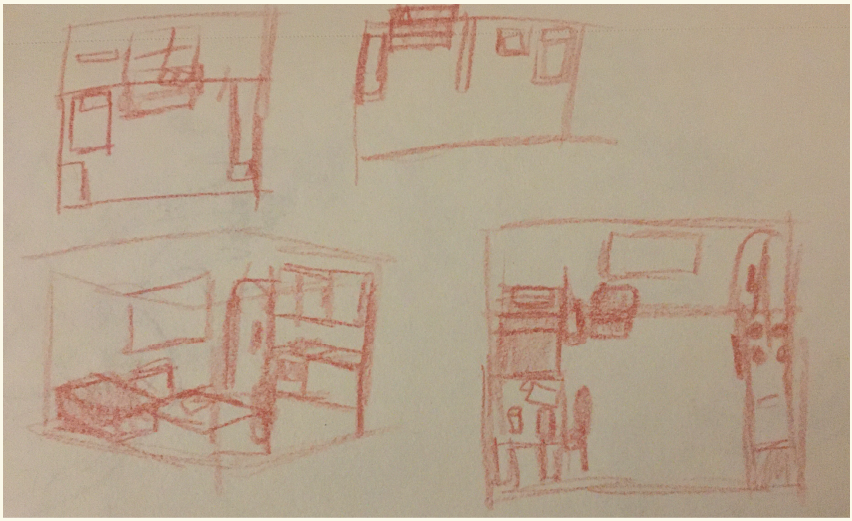

- trash gage
- the gage fills up everytime you clean up a table in the serving area
- once its filled up you cant clean any tables anymore
- when filled up you need to interact w the trash can which makes u carry a trash bag
- take it outside and throw out the trash bag to reset the gage
seperate map
vincent on break
storage
freezer
kitchen
- random chefs in the kitchen
- nothing too detalled/focused abt them theyre just some guys
- food waiting timer
- once the timer is full means your food is ready to be picked up
Player optional placement
- booth sofa seating
- probably meant for more rich looking customers or couples/intimate pairs (visual cued puzzle element maybe)
(if you seat them somewhere else than the booth seating theyll be kind of dissatisfied)
- counter
- once customers are done they will automatically stand in front of the counter
-take ppls payments
- if u served them rlly well w/o exceeding any of their waiting timers they might give u extra tip
- entrance
- customers will pop up and stand there until you seat them in a table
- if you exceed their waiting timer they will just Leave

La Gueule de Saturne, the main map in Dead Plate where Rody and Vince work was imagined as a high-end French bistro, like the style of the fancy kitchen restaurant but with some of the formality of the actual dining area. We wanted it to be nice looking and fancy to show its a high-end place but not so much that Rody stands out as a server wearing roller skates there or not so much to feel unwelcoming during the serving period.



Initial sketches of the bistro's freezer and Vince's office.

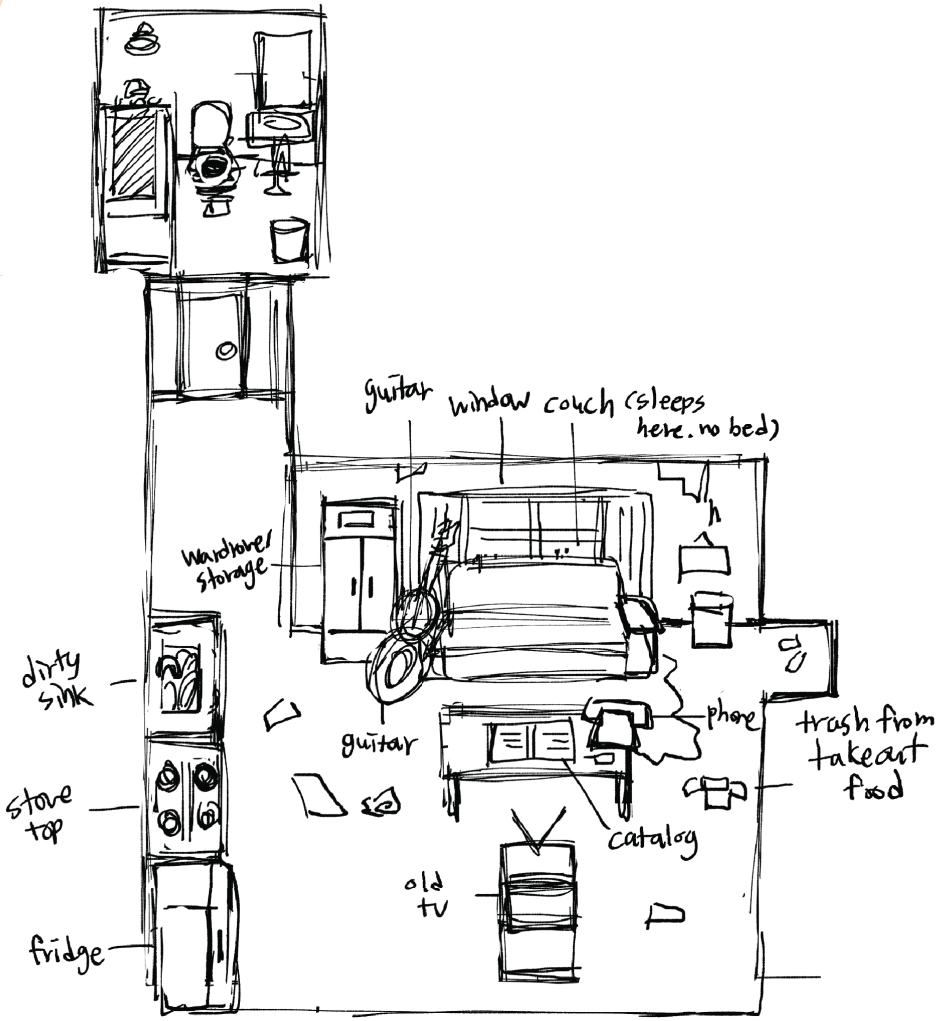
Rody's Apartment



Initial sketches of Rody's apartment by Rix.

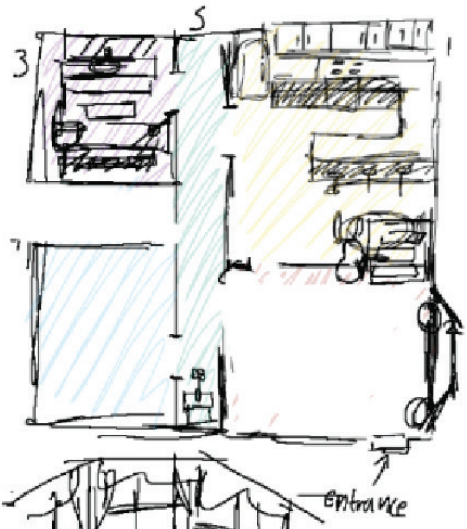
Rach: I wanted Rody's apartment to really showcase what Rody's deal was from the get-go when the audience first goes to his apartment where anybody looking at it would go "He lives like this?". Rody is someone who's very messy and doesn't care about himself enough to allow himself a comfortable environment, and would hastily clean up his house only if a guest is coming over. He's been living in this same apartment for years and you can really tell how cheap and old the apartment is with everything slowly falling apart and rotting from the inside.

There were probably points where he had enough money to move out but he still hasn't because he chose to spend that money elsewhere for his loved ones rather than himself. I wanted his living space to communicate his unhealthy, self-sacrificial traits on its own through visual storytelling.



Initial sketches of Rody's apartment by Rach.

Final.



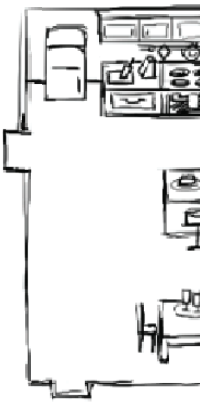
1 - Kitchen

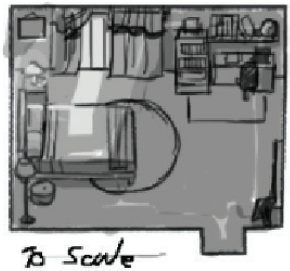
2 - Living Room
- has clear design
- Has Bookshelf
- has Couch
- Where shabby "friends" are

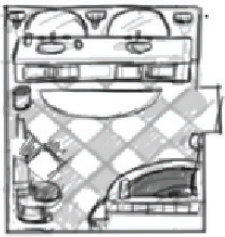
3 - Bedroom
- Suspicious cleaning supplies here
- Maybe there's some hair gunk in the cupboards?

4 Bedroom
- IDK what this looks like, I'll show some inspirations in the scene

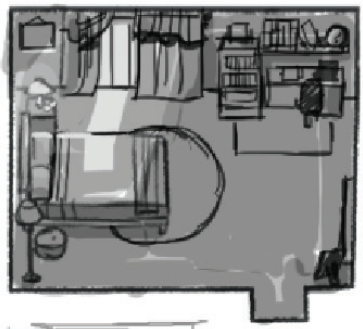
5 Hallway

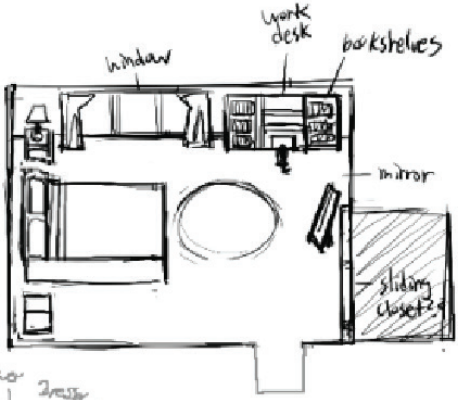






Vince's Apartment





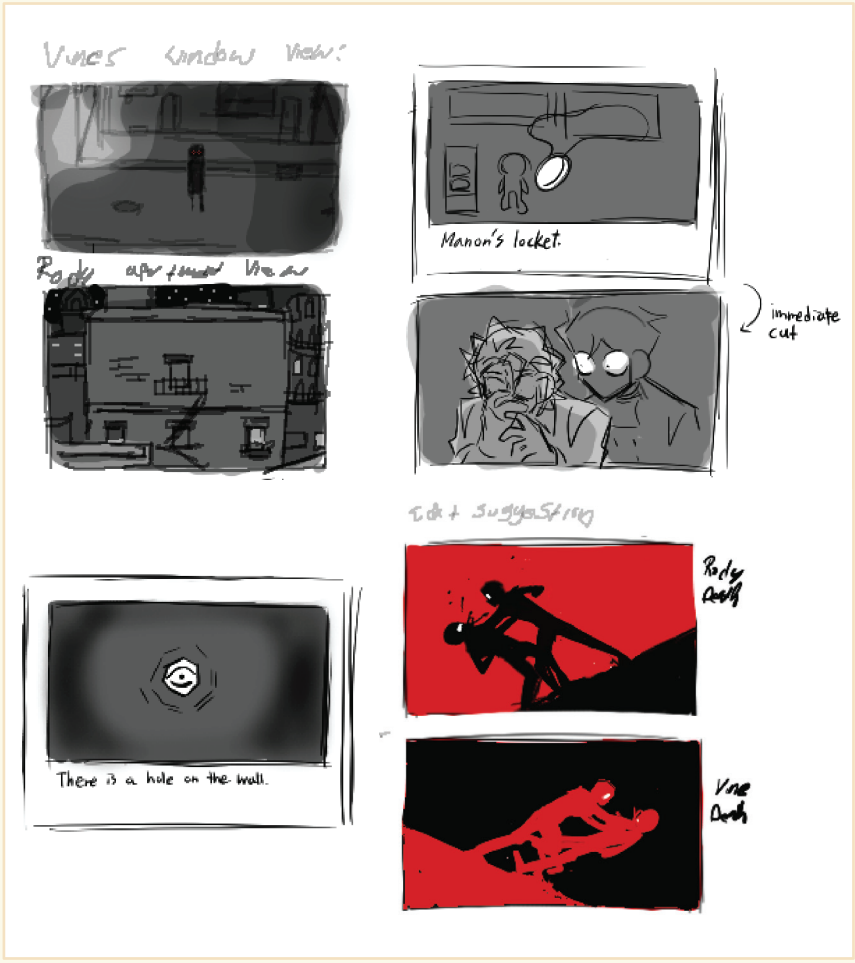
Vince's living room before revision...

...After revision.

CGs

The very first CG test/mock-up done for the game.

CGs



The stylization of the CGs was heavily inspired by the visuals of movies during the era the game itself takes place, which is the 1960's.

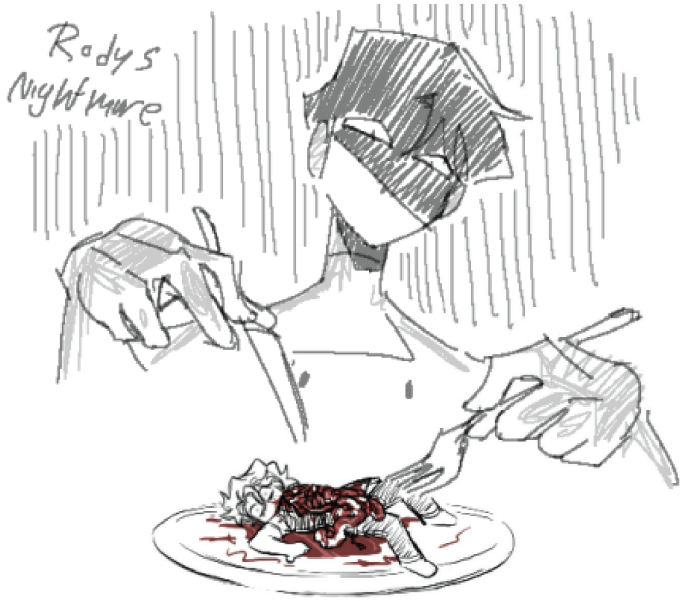
The goal was to have each panel look cinematic and vintage as if they were screenshots or stills from an existing 60's horror movie at a glance.

A lot of the ideas for dialogue and scenes in the final game stemmed from the various aforementioned joint canvas sessions we had where we would draw each of our characters in a certain prompt or interaction and see how they bounced off of each other.

JOINT SKETCHES TO IN-GAME CGs/INTERACTIONS

Can you guess which of the following sketches inspired what scene/CGs in the final game?

Sorry I'm late...
doesn't own an umbrella
DRY OFF, you cunt be seen by customers looking like this- Im giving you my umbrella for the ride back so this doesn't happen again,
Then how are YOU getting home?!


Rody's Nightmare

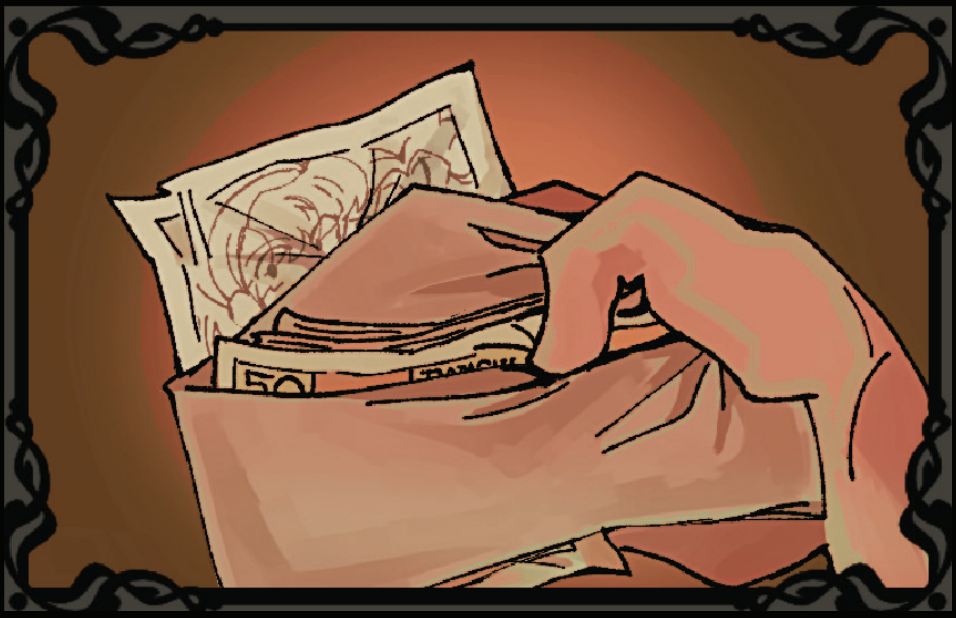
Did you not bring any thing to eat for ur Lunch Break?
I suppose I could let you eat the left overs of patrons who didnt finish their meal.
But you better enjoy the meal more than these CENSORED customers did and appreciate the table scraps I'm bothering to feed you. By the time your break's over all these dishes better be licked fucking spotless or all of these meals are coming out of your paycheck, alright?
aye aye sir....

The restaurant represents everything we've been waiting for in the local food movement. Not incidentally, it's delicious. The food provided not only fulfilling nutritional substance but failed to be lacking in any department of taste and quality.

~~The service however was mediocore. We'd expect the same quality as a local fast food joint despite the restaurant's high quality dining and price~~

Looking for Anything Specific?
got caught trying to investigate Vince's room
Tup
n. nice room!!
... Thanks.

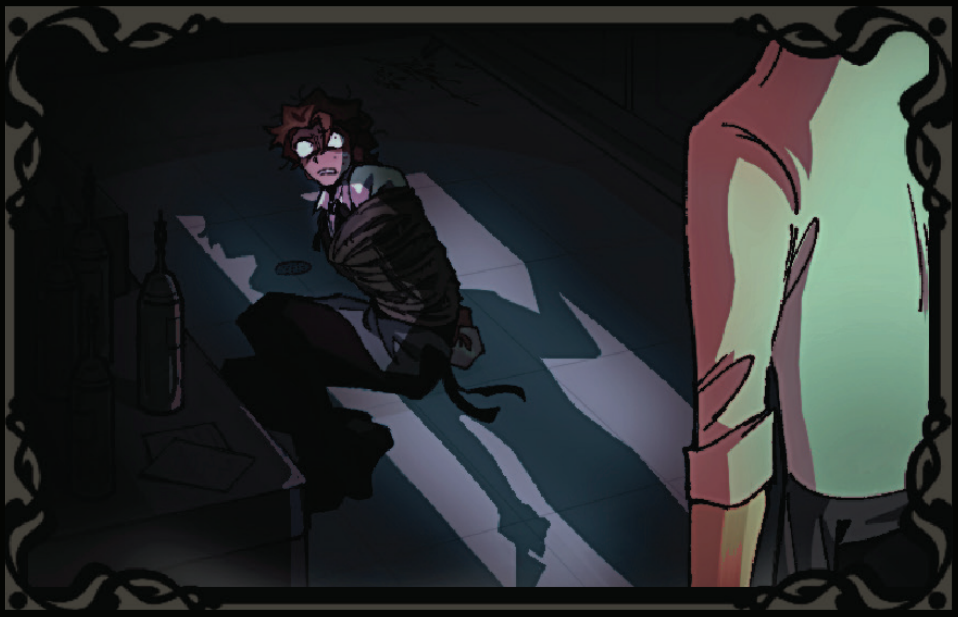
AAAAAAAAH



COLOR OR B/W

The ending CGs were all going to be in full color but after some experimentation, we found that they felt more eerie and atmospheric when they were in black and white. So we decided to have all the ending CGs except for “Revenge is Best Served Hot” ending be in the classic black and white look, but that ending specifically was left colored not only to give the other CGs a cinematic feeling but to specifically emphasize that ending as the best suited to how we think the story of Dead Plate ends.

The following pages contain the CGs from ending 1 and ending 2 in full color before they were turned into black and white format.

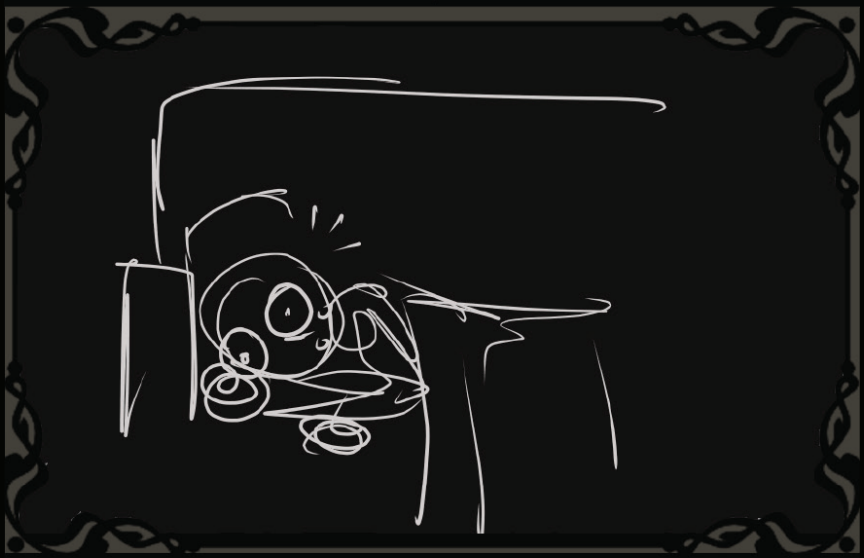


Nightmare Cgs

We wanted the nightmare CGs to be stylized and surreal by having it only consisting of lineless single colors with the red standing out intensely the most. They were based on vintage minimalist French posters and designs. As the week goes on, Rody's nightmares set itself up in the order of meat being prepared to be eaten!

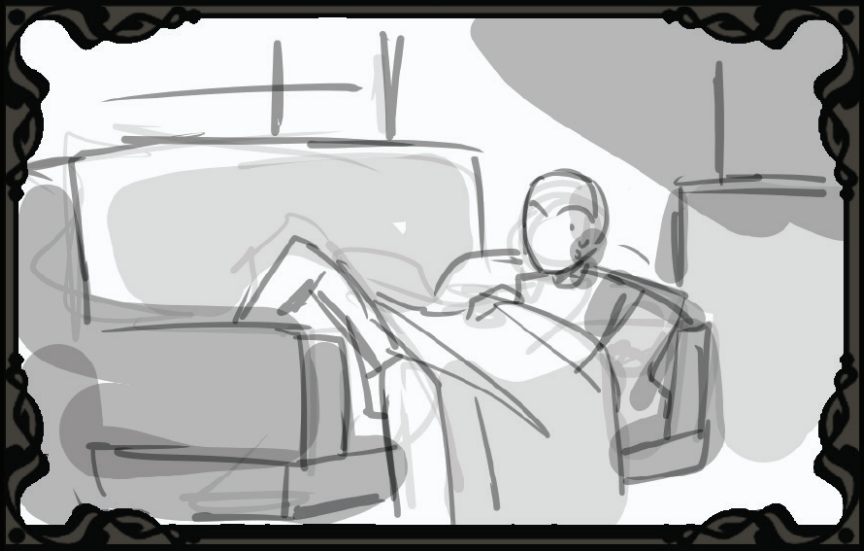
OPTION A

OPTION B



OPTION B

OPTION C



OPTION C

Different options of how Nightmare sequences would visually go.

Initial sketches of Rody's nightmares during Day .

UGH HHHH----
Woke up at 4AM again from a Vince dream
I don't think I can hang out today or tomorrow or the day after-
avoids being near Vince after nightmares
!
The hell did I do?!
where you so mad about-

CHARACTERS

Characters

RODY

Rach: Rody is a lover, and to him, to love is to give all of himself away—but he's an unreliable narrator; he's not inherently selfless. There was a time when he acted selfish and pretentious, but Rody's past experience in university greatly damaged his ego and self-worth which caused him to act as selfless and passive as possible from that point on in his attempt to make up for all the years he acted egotistical and disappointing those he cared about, thinking that being self-sacrificial would help him feel less guilty about his behavior in the past and hopefully make him be less of a burden to those around him. He feels horrible whenever he needs to take care of himself because he believes he isn't worth the trouble and others deserve that kind of attention more than he does.

The reason he's always broke or his situation and behavior seemingly never get better is because he always puts the wants of others first—he gives away everything he can to his loved ones to make them happy and convince them to stay since that way he's worth at least something, or to his parents who are curious about his city life and worried about Rody to reassure that he's doing fine. He's willing to spend anything for the people that he loves whether it be his money, time, or energy because he desperately needs to feel deserving of love again.

Everything he does is in the name of love without realizing what he really needs is to love himself—and in a twisted way, Vince is the one who helps him understand this by the end of their story.

(surprisingly
decent at singing)

what a freak..
scratch scratch
terrible self-care when single
sniff
* out of relationship
scratch scratch
beer stains
* in a relationship
SHAVE

VINCE

Rix: Vince is a character whose personality was made to conflict with Rody's. Every part of him was made to annoy him—He's an inherently selfish person, all of his successes and flaws come from the fact that he isn't willing to give any part of himself up for others. His whole deal is avoidable and messy and frustrating and entirely on him. The goal was to have a villain whose main motivation was a tragic flaw and inability to stop the ball once it started rolling, Vince wants praise, he wants success, he has the ambitions to achieve it—and more than anything he wants to be loved by those around him to make up for the inability to find passion in life on his own. Not necessarily romantic but he wants the companionship and community inherent in cooking and eating with others that he seemingly lost the ability to feel. He wants love without compromise and without giving any part of himself away because he feels with the loss of his taste he's already lost a major source of pride and happiness in his life so he shouldn't have to give anything else up either.

Spent the entire night in the kitchen
Hey, kid
Do you have a light-
UGHHH

I WANT YOU TO EAT THIS.
I MADE IT FOR YOU.

MANON

Rix: Manon wasn't originally a part of the cast and was made after Vince and Rody so there was a fear she would stand out too much but ended up being the glue that made the entire trio stick and what made everything else work. She gives the structure to the rest of the story and brings out the personalities of everyone involved—but it was important that she have a clear personality of her own to stand apart from everything else.

Rach: She did have a straightforward, one-dimensional personality when she was first added to the cast as "the girl that's out of Rody's league"—we thought it'd be fun to have a love triangle dynamic between Rody and Vince and didn't realize just how important of an ingredient she would be later on in the story, but thankfully we gave her more depth as a character and now instead of just being a silly girl who only cares about others' appearance and materialistic wants, she's a more genuine type of person. She can sometimes still be naive and have unintentionally high expectations for her partners due to growing up in a wealthy household but despite it all her heart doesn't mean any harm and deeply cares for those close to her in the end.

We re-purposed her initial character concept as one of the twists in Dead Plate, to trick the audience into thinking Manon was the mean ex-girlfriend who dumped Rody for being poor or unpresentable enough for her, and a cheater who's interested in Vince for his appearance and wealth—only for it to later turn out that she was never the unhealthy one in the relationship, it's Rody who was actually unstable and unreliable and she broke up for Rody's own good to further highlight the game's theme surrounding how the difference between strong love and obsession is only paper thin, and how being in love doesn't always mean sticking with the other no matter what, and instead it means to do what'd be the best for them even if it means physically splitting up.

In the final game, we were aiming to portray her as ambiguously and vaguely as possible since by the time the story happens she's already gone, and those who are gone cannot speak for themselves. It's left for everyone else to describe her which is inherently biased, distorted, or romanticized, especially since the game is told from Rody's perspective. The tragedy of her death comes from the fact we will never get to truly know her as her own person and only as a device designed to push the narrative, but Manon is still everywhere in the story, haunting it to its very core, screaming and wailing to let her presence be known. She is the catalyst of everything that happens, and the game wouldn't have been made at all if she didn't exist.

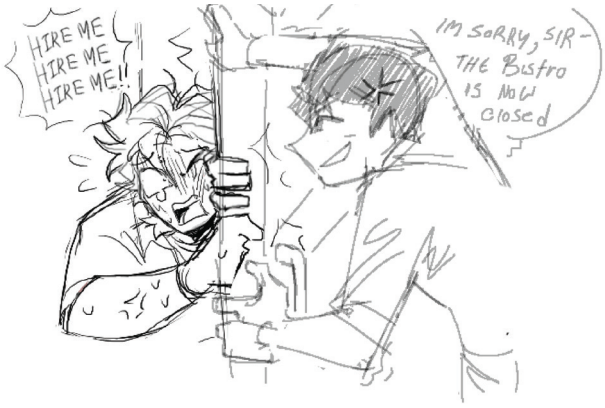
Relationships

VINCE TO RODY

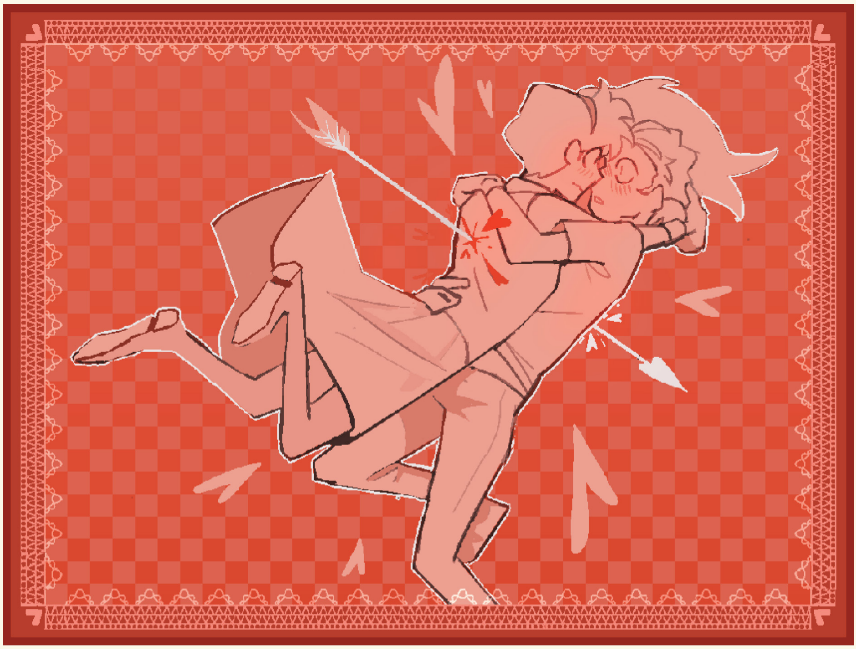
Rach: Rody thinks Vince is miserable. There are many things he doesn't like about Vince —he doesn't like that he's better looking than him, he doesn't like that he's successful despite being younger than him, he doesn't like that he's in a relationship with the love of his life when he knows Vince isn't taking it seriously—but the main thing he'd despise about Vince is that he's a chef even though he refuses to make food for others. Emotionally, that is.

Food equals comfort to Rody, making food for someone is one of the greatest ways of showing love for others to him and he's upset he can't do it because he always gets too carried away and burns it all to ashes—both the food and the relationship. And he's appalled by the fact that Vince makes food only for himself—out of ego, jealousy, and pride rather than to make an honest good meal that's meant to make others feel cared for. He's offended that Vince still expects to be praised and loved back without giving any of himself away.

When Rody learns that Vince can't taste, a lot of things probably click for him in his head. Rody strongly believes tasting good food is one of the main joys you can experience in life, getting lunch and dinner with others is such a great opportunity for humane connection—and he'd be devastated that someone's missing out on all of it. Despite feeling conflicted about Vince, he can't help but feel empathetic and would think no one deserves that. As corny as it sounds, he probably views Vince not as a highly acclaimed chef or respected boss, but as just some troubled younger guy who unfortunately hasn't gotten the chance to taste true love yet. I think Rody pities him, despite Vince technically living way better off compared to him.



MANON TO RODY



Rach: Manon is the love of Rody's life. I imagine Rody met Manon at one of the lowest points of his life and views her as his savior for giving him a purpose in life and a chance to prove that he just might be worthy of being loved again by doing everything in his power to give her his service, for being someone Rody can shift his entire focus on and for being someone he can take care of instead of having to put attention to himself. There are many things about Manon that Rody is hopelessly in love with, but one of the main things would be the fact that she is almost everything he is not.

Despite having many romantic experiences in the past, I imagine Manon was the very first partner of Rody's who still showed him love as they were getting separated, hinting a possibility that she was still willing to take him back even if in reality there wasn't until he improved himself. Rody was so desperate and dedicated to winning her back since all his previous relationships ended directly with his partners saying they weren't interested anymore or had fallen out of love, but Manon was different. He probably was strongly convinced she was really the one because of that. If Manon hadn't said anything about how she still loved Rody, I believe he wouldn't have been as obsessed as he was in the game.

If Vince's way of expressing love is to cook and provide something for them without giving any of himself away, Rody expresses love by serving himself up a plate and begging for the other to eat him.

RODY TO VINCE

Rix: Vince's cannibalistic impulses were written as the theme of him correlating love with the feeling of taste that he can no longer experience. He feels the same emotions being around someone new like Rody as he did experiencing a new food for the first time. Which leads to late game moments where he eats the blood, sweat and tears from Rody because for some reason unknown to him he's expecting it to have a taste and is always confused and dissatisfied when he's reminded there isn't.

Rix: Also to be blunt It's a love story. It's a story about love, Vince loves Rody, I personally wrote for Vince to come across that way. Not strictly romantic or even platonic but it's something that's there and it's something that influences Vince's motivations. He was never gonna have an outright confession because I don't think Vince is capable of that but I think overall the story is about want and wanting what you can't have and love and the inability to express it or inability to selflessly experience it. Vince's story is about him wanting love but his ego overriding an ability to express it without taking more than he gives, he wants to have love without giving any of himself away.

MANON TO VINCE

Rix: In terms of Vince's relationship with Manon I imagine it being fraught in canon but in another life them getting along well. He likes her company and finds her nice but can't really genuinely click with her beyond the usual facade he puts up, if he just dropped it around her and didn't play along with their potential relationship it'd likely be a decent enough casual friendship. I'd imagine if this story were taking place over a longer span of time he finds her fine as a platonic friend but begins somewhat using her when Rody enters the story and playing on her romantic attraction/desire for a new relationship as a way to play into the role expected of him while keeping Rody in his life a bit longer. To him, Manon's the silverware to Rody's main course.

Rix: As for the canon of the game and her death he's by no means a mastermind to any big plan but frequently impulsively takes what chances he can get to be in control of any given situation.

RODY TO MANON

Rach: Even though the game tries to trick the audience into thinking Manon is an ingenuine partner, that gets debunked through how she kept the locket of both their pictures in it on the day she died.

Manon surprisingly approached Rody first—I always thought it'd be cute if they met when they both were just getting out of their previous relationships, with Manon who just dumped her then-boyfriend while Rody just got dumped by his then-girlfriend. They probably developed a friendship fairly quickly over the solidarity of "Why does my love life always go wrong". I think Rody did start to feel romantic feelings for her first but probably felt guilty about it since he knew Manon was out of his league and thought she didn't want any new relationships so he fully wanted to leave his love unrequited and just appreciated her company as is because just being able to be around was enough, but Manon probably could tell he liked her and thought it was sweet of him to be considerate of her feelings and how he viewed their platonic love just as important as romantic love so she asked him out first. They probably were in a relationship for about half a year.

Manon loves Rody, but she wishes Rody loved himself more. To fully admit it she probably enjoyed all the new attention and service Rody gave her at first since it'd probably be the first time she was in a relationship with someone that selfless and dedicated, but as time went by it quickly became suffocating, unsustainable, and genuinely concerning for her.

Rody is like a plate of dessert to Manon—they're sweet, and it can really make her day whenever she gets it, it feels great to have on occasion but having too much makes her sick and she physically isn't able to take anymore. Manon loves Rody, and that's exactly the reason why she needs to get away from him—she doesn't want Rody to continuously give himself away until there's none of him left on the plate.

VINCE TO MANON

Rach: Vince is technically Manon's "ideal" partner—While she does find Vince's appearance, status, and wealth all attractive and something she'd love to see from her romantic interest, I think the main reason why she got so fast in a new relationship with him was as a rebound rather than out of genuine love. She probably needed a distraction, something to convince herself to fall out of love and move on already and she happened to meet Vince during this time via her parent's connection (they're food critics!). She probably found it interesting that he was the complete opposite of Rody.

To me, I feel like they would've acted like the "perfect couple" when looking at them from the outside, Manon probably did genuinely try to like him and be a good partner and Vince was also probably good to her, treating her like a gentleman he publicly is but they both most likely knew they were faking it. Manon finds Vince bitter, and while she enjoys bitter food an feels that it's refreshing for her pallet from time to time, she'd get sick of it fairly quickly if she were to eat it every day.

I'd like to think the day she died was when she visited Vince planning to break up with him, which just happened to align with the day he impulsively decided to kill her.

why hasn't he hurt yet?
first time has gotten cut in years
Is it possible to meet the chef? I'd love to talk with him...
YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS...
I wish you slammed that door on me and never opened it again,
huh.
I was just about to say the exact opposite,

Miscellaneous Sketches

I dont see what you have to complain about - Im a pretty lenient boss,
What. What are you looking at me like that for-
slap mark
cigarette burns

accidentally fell asleep on Vince's bed from it being comfy
Zz

Could you treat us employees (me) with more.. uh.. respect,
trying to file a complaint
what do you mean by that

Getting his attention

successfully flirting w/ a customer for once
Completely Indifferent

about to wake him up
Falling asleep while working

it's just private kitchen notes, you don't need to read it-
what cha always scribbling on there?
THAT'S your handwriting??
cute
TO-DO
Staff Notes
INVENTORY

Not noticing what he's even doing

You're - uh, probably gunna be busy on your birthday, right?
You do throw massive parties often after all..
I Actually didn't make any plans.
I guess it slipped my mind..
OH!! .. I mean- uh - so you're gunna be free then..?
Why do you ask?

What's Wrong?~ Are you having trouble walking on your own?
If you plan on being a semi-decent Cook, you have no reason to be Scared of Something like an oven.
Incredibly cruel to his cooks

... Here, A customer returned their dessert, you can have it to go...
Drugged.

BANG
HEY VINCE HEY!!
Yeah, yeah, what is it -
<2AM>
BANG
OPEN UP HEY-
THIS IS RLLY IMPORTANT!!
BANG
SLAM
I COOKED AN EGG W/O BURNING IT!!!
ran all the way just to tell him
cant take out trash (All animals hate him)

tornadocountrymp3 Follow
through gritted teeth every day i *choose* to be kind *barely restraining myself from violence* i *choose* to have compassion *tamping down the vicious bloodlust inside me* i choose to *care* and to be *kind* and to *love*
fanghusband Follow
(flirting) you look so biteable today
???
What kind of pantry even is this?? theres no ingredients, it just expired snacks!
DHEES ESHPZRE??
(these expire??)

saw him hanging out w/ the chefs after work
was it fun.
It was yeah...
chop chop chop
Are you jealous—
No, Fuck off, go to hell and die—
How's living in Paris freakin' ya
Yeah? It isn't as great as it sounds, hun
Wanna take a picture?
shake shake
squeak squeak

I'll get whatever server to wipe that table- Don't take too long cleaning up and get back to work-
How'd you pack all that in perfect shape-
Okay, good- I packed you a light lunch in case you got hungry.
Gonna spit in their food.
Nah, those were just a light snack- I'm kinda getting hungry again.
You haven't eaten too much, have you-
Not at all- Why, do I not look super excited?
(Having fun~)
Ah! I'm not the only one who's having fun, right? A- are you having fun??
Aw, He looks just like Régis!-
That he met at the back of the bistro he's best friends with.
What's "Régis"
Here you go, sir!
FRIED
ON A ST

hngg cold..
Why hasn't he fired me yet?!
Doesn't get cold easily

shes better be
cking spotless
these meals
ing out of your
eck, alright?
I WANT YOU TO EAT THIS.
I MADE IT FOR YOU.

Need some help?
. . .
Im fine, Im getting the hang of it..
...But if you WANT to help then feel free to—
you want TAKE OUT??
yeah?? you know so we can eat something actually fitting for a party??

catching up on sleep during break
TRASH
poking his eye

HA HA WEIRD, I can feel a draft, must be the wind -
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

Don you ever get stomachaches from eating too much-
Not to my knowledge??-
Im still allowed to appreciate good quality...
FIS IS FOOD FUALITY-
(This IS good quality!!!)

You really couldnt think of ANY other place to get food?
HMFH-MN HFHGH-!!
(It's not like you're gonna be eating anyway-)

Have you ever even cried, Vince??
I can't imagine it.. Kinda curious what you'd look like~
hm. not that I can remember.
but then again my mom said I didn't cry when I was born, either
oh, wait! no, I do remember crying a few times.
When??
Sn ap
My first cigarette, cutting an onion for the first time, My first kiss, eating my first meal after losing my sense of taste, and seeing a mime as a kid
There's so many questions I want to ask right now.

she/he
she/he
Scared of mimes (the mascot specifically)

That one Ronald Mcdonald bench statue (but mime)

<taking out trash>
I CANT BELIEVE OUR ENTIRE JAM STOCK WENT BAD...
drunk + showed up at his doorstep to traumadump (it's 4AM)
can beers
Dont Be so upset, theres always the option to kys.
NO ONE WILL EVER LOVE MEEE

Watch your health!!
Healthy Lunch at work :))
5th time this week he brought oysters
You can have my lunch if you want.
NAH THAT'S ALRIGHT...
WANNA TRY?
Do you Really own a Gun that big?

refuses to save guys
LIFE GUARD
why would I go swim, I'll get a sunburn—
VINCE SPEAK TO ME OR ELSE I'LL HAVE TO PERFORM CPR—
Making up excuses since he cant swim

WANT ANY?
I DONT HAVE ANYTHING ELSE.
(Shaking head)
CAT NAP
Scratch
Scratch
leaning in w/o realizing

You made all of of... This by yourself?
For me?
I put my soul into this... Try it!!

what do you want.. "Manon", to get for your birthday.
Hm? Oh I never expect to get anything for my birthday- If I do I want it to be a surprise!
FINE As if you didnt make things hard enough for me, jesus-
??
he remembered it was coming up..
Birthday cake he spent all night on
To: Rudy
IS IT THAT BAD?!
clueless →

BOSS: Know why I called you in here?
ME: Because I accidentally sent you a dick pic
BOSS [stops pouring 2 glasses of wine] Accidentally?

<out of nowhere>
Will you miss me when I die?
Why, are you planning on dying soon?
Been having this dream where you cook and eat me
Most times it's me dying but sometimes it's you who burn to death for some reason-
...I know I'll miss you when you're gone.
.....

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A TELEVISION?? WHAT DO YOU WATCH FOR FUN THEN???
for fun???
... is that the most expensive thing you own
he has favorite shows??
cheapest tv imaginable
like this!! I watch all my favorite shows on here
Here, you're a guest let me reheat get you something—
FWOOSH—
you don't have a bed???
No?? What's wrong with the couch?? I eat and sleep and rest on there—
CREAAAK—
SHUT THE HELL UP, KEEP IT DOWN

I don't get why she doesn't just leave him- he's so rude and she doesn't even know if she likes being around him, just ditch him-
Yeah she really should-
leaves fresh groceries and microwaveable left-overs
You can just get take out for tonight,
And this is the bathroom~
way too proud of it
You don't? Have a normal bath???
WHY IS THERE NO HOT WATER-
COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST SHOUTED FROM THE BATHROOM?!
slipped and hit his head
a thousand years later

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO MEAN TO ME!! DO YOU HATE ME???
WAA
drunk
AAA
Hey, Don't - you gotta cut back, you need some water-
Not physically able to answer that
lalalalalalalala
Never been spun like that before
I just... I dont get how you managed to burn cereal...
... I mean. Are you impressed-
In a way, Yeah!! I guess!
good enough for me!

So is there a reason why you specifically picked up on cooking?
I mean with a face like that you could've been an actor or something—
And with a face like yours you could make some good money in a travelling circus and yet,

midnightcowboy1969

"That's my girl!" I shout while pointing at a guy

Huh?- Yeah, Why wouldnt I be?
Cant come over tonight- I got a plan with some friends, that's cool w you, right?
* Later that Night
Hey, I had a pretty massive party at my place last night but have these left over if you want any.
oh you had one too?! How was it?
Didnt sleep.
Stress relieving.
??
(out of nowhere)
I want a marriage.
Pfft-
Ah, well y'know marriage is kind of useless in terms of showing lov-
BUT EVERYONE ELSE IS GETTING MARRIED WHY CAN'T WE?!
Well, I doubt you were going to school to count tables- what were you going there for??
...You're 100% gonna make fun of me if I told you-
you dont need to be too worried about that- It cant be any more embarrassing than as you are now,
See that kind of talk is exactly what I mean-

You got a favorite song? I might be able to play it
Eh, I dont know if I have much of a favorite... And I dont have sheet music for the one I have in mind.
Its ok, he'll forget this all in the morning
I'M SESLY GONNA QUIT IF YOU DON'T ANSWERRR
Thats fine, I'll get you in water.
On second thought we should probably just get a cab-
Cant ride a bike
teaching him how to ride it
ehhh- i don't know, there's not much room back there so it'll be uncomfortable for you since you'd have to get real close and hold on to me super tight so you don't fall off,
Maybe it'd be easier for me to ride on the back of yours,
yeah, yeah, that should be fine
?
I know, right??
Yeah, it tastes delicious!

You sleep on this couch?? But it's so stiff - No wonder you're always sore.
No I dont fucking sleep on the couch-
THATS WHAT A BED IS FOR !!!!
Z Z Z
never got sick in his entire life
He got a cold? Pssh, serves him right!!
SNF
. . .
SOME OF YOUR COWORKERS SEEM TO BE GETTING SICK- DO YOU THINK YOU COULD COVER THEM THIS WEEK?

LINGHH!?
RODY? HGH!?
HIGH FEVER
C'MON!! OR YOU'LL NEVER GET BETTER!!
IM NOT SICK!!
IN DENIAL OF HAVING A COLD
I FEEL FINE.
A-CHOO!

Here, you can have mine—
Got it for him in the first place
Feel free to hold on when you get scared ^
SOME CANNIBAL
SLASHER MOVIE
What should I do during the non-scary parts?
We should go to Scary Movies more often..
Why isn't he picking up—
Wasn't today our fair date
Still Not fine w/ food/drink

If you can't taste does that mean you can just chug this and be fine??
Fine w/ spice
pog
cute
IT'S RIGGED.
ARE you KEEPING ALL of These??
WON ANOTHER ONE!!

Your friends kinda suck-
formal wear

Some guy just gave me a massive tip!!
don't know why he gave me a note with a phone number on it too but-
oh he sounds nice.
Puppy. CLEAN.
you can't have this, no
SLAM
CUTE!!
WAITING TO BITE HIM
you can have THIS.
That trash had chocholate cake in it...

got slapped
accidentally fell on top of him
Oops—
SLAP!

Don't insult my kitchen.
Doesn't Hanni taste bud?
Hates anything bitter
FOR YOU

Totally out of curiosity but have you dated someone before??
You don't seem like the lovey-dovey type (no offense)
IF YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED TO KNOW, I HAVE.
How about you? Totally out of curiosity but have you ever had any SUCCESSFUL Relationships?
WANT SOME?

19 yrs old
4yrs old
WHY?!?!
You shouldn't eat anything raw!!
PSPSPSPS
There's no need for you to be screaming - no sound escapes the room,

Huh, youre right, youve got a pretty solid foreshank
Didn't escape the freezer in time
Bicep. I meant Bicep.-
Expensive!!
Looking for rings to give to Manon
If you had to pick, would you rather be eaten alive or eat someone else alive-
And please be truthful in your answer-
Interviewing him for the job
? ? ?
UGHH
Always sore

I... I promise not to tell anyone... Just let me go... please...
Can you buy me a ring— (terrible wording)
CRACK
After a long shift
Trying to get his attention
You do not backtalk me in my own kitchen, you god damn pig.
You shut the hell up and do as youre told, youre lucky to even be in here.
tap tap

Sorry I'm late . . .
doesn't run on umbrella
DRY OFF, you cunt be seen by customers looking like this- Im giving you my umbrella for the ride back so this doesn't happen again,
slap mark
THE FUCK ARE YA LOOKING AT!!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF HIM!!!

CHEF!! YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL EYES!!
Please give my compliments to the chef!
Very well.
Then how are YOU getting home??
WORK ☆ BESTIES
I don't see what you have to complain about - I'm a pretty lenient boss,
What. What are you looking at me like that for-
cigarette burns

Does this hair seem at all appropriate for a cook
No, chef-
Huh? - It's not like you're any less of a cook just because of some hair
I dont know, it wouldn't be very practical for a chef...
I know he's nicer and in a better mood the days you work - we're always looking forward to the days you're in.
Wait so you guys actually like me?!

Let it in on impulse when it reminded him of Rody
Rody, I need you to come over.
?
Kind of busy at the moment,
Very obviously trying to peek in the freezer
visibly staring
Look Vince I chopped these all by myself!!!
You're not allowed near any of the kitchen equipment anymore
HAND OVER THE KNIFE-
But I worked so hard on it...
I wanted to make you lunch...
You didn't have to eat it I just felt bad for freeloading all the time,
grin
knows he's his favorite now
grin
Stop doing that.

D... did I do something that upset you?
... There's customers waiting - you should get back to work.
NICE MOVES!!
Super chill w/ kids
GOOD WORK TODAY!!
This is a stupid hobby.
Twitch Twitch
Terrible w/ kids
Ah, Good Morning, Kids!..
These little shits better not throw eggs at me again-
Terrified of Vince (convinced has a Cannibal)
That guy's probably gonna eat you

Trying
to prove how easy
waiting tables is

I FEEL KINDA BAD...
ALL THIS PERFECTLY GOOD MEAT GOING TO WASTE...

Ain't she cute?
oh shes pretty! whats her name?
Alright back off buddy she's mine
what about her address? her phone number?

Manon cancelled our movie date...
How else am I gonna spend these...
You should try and get a refund or re-sell them, Its not like anyone else will go with you
Wanna buy it?
None of my friends would go to see that, I'll pass-
OK how about this- You only pay for one of them and I'll just use the other one since I don't want it to go to waste-
Deal. But only if Its half priced.
Doesn't realize what this implies
Does.
ITS a shame, Though. IT means I'll have to cancel my movie date with Manon.

make sure to walk him 2 times a day!!
And And
?

Before she Dumped Him
Well I guess... if you two do love each other I don't have a say in it huh..?
AHH...Right. Yeah.
A. ALL YOU HAVE ARE NICE JOB AND NICE APARTMENT AND TONS OF MONEY AND GOOD REPUTATION AND POPULARITY (and good looks) AND—
trying to insult him
Heh, Go on, keep Listing.

Can you get me that one that and that and th—
um.. well, ah...
Too weak to carry her
Hold this one too!!
Caved and has been buying every thing she asks for
Passed out
Is it that heavy?? Rody usually carries at least 12 more—
12??
?!!?
Waiting for a kiss
Why do you think I work as your waiter
How did you stand to be with her? How did she not Bankrupt you, what the hell is wrong with you—
Does that mean you'll give me one?!
I cant afford to...
No wonder you wanted a raise...
Did you like the Song?
Oh yes it was PERFECT!!
I was asking him—
Finally, Now Sing the one you wrote for Manon—
asked him to review a love song he wrote for Manon

..me too, hic-
Lemme on...
Can't you just get a taxi??-
How is it?
It's like if an angel made them!!-
cough
just broke things up w/ her recent bf
Aren't you a guy?? Why are you-hic! crying so much-
just got dumped by his recent gf

What are... would you do if I left Manon?
...Why would that matter to you?-
...Bye- yes, I love you too,
You dont have to get defensive, its just a hypothetical-
hhuh.. Well I'm not sure on anything specific but I'd probably be a lot happier...
It doesn't matter- It reflects badly on me!
Just because you're my- my, whatever doesn't mean I can keep defending you!! This place is my life and you keep screwing it up
Why, are you guys finally breaking up?-
The hell were you thinking talking to a customer like that...

...
I'm planning on ending it with her soon,
click
You don't need to keep worrying,
You shouldn't lie about losing someone like that,
...You know what, fine. I'll admit it was my bad to be acting like that at work,
I was only following your example—
So maybe you don't need a screw up like me in your "life"— I don't think this place is for me either, and I'd hate to ruin it any further for you—
Hey wait—
untying apron

How do they do that???
making them listen to the Beatles
...
What do you see in him anyways
He makes me laugh!
Pfft-

THEIR SOCIAL LIVES

Rach: Rody probably doesn't have much of a social life outside of his moderate circle of friends consisting of his ex-coworkers he met during the part-time jobs he took before working at La Guele de Saturne. His main focus is on his love life anyway.

He has countless ex-girlfriends and as you have already guessed, they've always been the one to dump him. Rody always had a problem with maintaining his relationships—not because he's a bad partner, but the opposite. He's too attentive, too passionate—his love never dies out and only gets heated more and more as time goes by and he often ends up burning out everyone he gets into a relationship with.

Can you please leave me alone! What do you even want from me?
Is it money?? You already know I don't have any!
...?
If you could do Anything What would it be? What do you want me to make for you?
n.not quiet sure yet— I guess whatever my girlfriend would like??
6 months Later
AAA Hes Such a catch! Im so lucky
I FEEL NOTHING FOR THIS GUY... maybe we should
We Should Break up.
Didnt want to be the one dumped

<When dating>
AURGH WHY ARE YOU PRETTY WTF!!!
You probably should take dating lessons,
Thanks for the advice, I assume you'd have your coach's # on hand?
Ah, if not you can just give me yours,
overwhelmingly supportive
randomly picked from ground
Couldn't afford actual flowers
YOU?? WANT MY HELP??
hell yeah I'll show you the ropes!!
just glad to be winning at something
underwhelmingly supportive
oh yeah, I left a bouquet of flowers from a famous florist and a box of gourmet chocolates for you.
They're on the counter

tripping over some pebbles dude

KNOCK!
occupied...
hiding out in his bathroom

super touchy w/ friends
trying not to get jealous
hasn't understood a single joke anyone's said

where you studying so much...

SHSHSHSHUSH—
Is this the guy you talked about—

oh man— this is the most fun I've had in months!—

huh?— oh uh— yeah, d'you need someone to walk you home?—

was gonna ask if they could leave but doesn't want to interrupt

This is my friend— wait we aren't friends, uh— This is, uh, Vince!
Salut,

Rix: Most of Vince's relationships have failed due to him not being able to keep up appearances. He acts interested and open in most first interactions with people to get a good first impression. He'll agree with most people if they confess because it's what's expected of him but once that person enters his personal life he can't keep it up as well and eventually loses the energy and drive necessary to keep them interested and dumps them. As for friendships he rarely is around someone enough to be friends with them aside from acquaintances—the friends of his you meet in the game are likely the exception to that where they've known each other long enough and he's more blunt with them.

why aren't you usin—??
they, ah.. I just. remembered I have to get up early tomorrow.
Im gonna head home..
pff. loser can't even walk back home alone.. alright lets go o u..
it... I dont- I mean itd be appreciated. Sure, I wouldn't mind-
Are you saying that because I called you a loser
well- if you dont want to im fine going on my own-!.. I was just asking if you wanted to go too-
So do you have any hobbies then?
ell I mentioned er im a chef-
No, like outside of work.
What do you mean by that.
trying to think of how to make Rudy sound really impressive so he can tell his 'friends' abt him

UPBRINGINGS

Rach: Being born as an only child in the family, Rody's parents were very caring and overprotective of Rody, praising him for being clever and spoiling him a lot when he was young —so Rody ended up growing up as a pretty sensitive kid that's critical of others. He wouldn't hesitate to call them out and correct them if he thought their actions didn't align with what he thought was normal. Due to his parent's overprotectiveness, Rody was a little paranoid of his peers and was extra cautious about who he should hang out with because he didn't want to be associated with anyone his ma wouldn't approve of or that wasn't of "his level", but he still had kindness in his heart as he was born a lover and stuck around anyone that needed attention or help even if he thought they were weird.

HI RODY!!!
(only being nice to him so they can make him do their assignments)
I must be really popular
Can't talk rn, gotta go study for when I grow up to be a millionare

Both parents weren't that smart or had very well-paying fancy professional jobs so when they found out Rody could be a gifted kid they wanted him to have a successful and unique future and spoiled him so, so much.

They bet everything on raising him, but despite their wishes, Rody soon started struggling and failing classes not long after he got accepted to university where he was shocked to find how countless other students were doing so much better than him when he was supposed to be the one to be special. He realized this must be what people he used to look down on must've felt and with his initial pretentious worldview where he was so sure that he was gifted shattered, he wasn't doing super well mentally at the time. All that frustration and anxiousness continuously bottled up inside him, until during a group hangout, one of the students said something out of line or overly pretentious, which caused Rody to finally snap and beat him.

The student's family wanted to sue Rody but his parents paid a large amount of compensation fee so that they don't take this to court which they agreed, so while they avoided being sued they still lost a lot of money—and now that Rody was kicked out of school, he was no longer an asset but a futureless burden to the family. His parents didn't say it out loud but were obviously disappointed and Rody felt devastatingly guilty about continuing to live with them so he told them he'd get a job and left with no plans to try and make it out there on his own. Even though Rody lacks knowledge in basic living skills like cooking because he's never had the chance to learn it and do it himself in the past due to how he was spoiled and is now struggling as an adult because of that, he never once blamed his parents for it.

Rody writes to them every few months and visits them during holidays or whenever they ask for him but he never invites them over to Paris, instead it's always him going back to his hometown. He'd rather die than let them see where he lives/what he had to work as just to stay there—He's always scared to meet them since he's pretty sure they hate him and he makes sure to never stay for long because he doesn't wanna burden them—the whole reason he moved out of the house in the first place was that he felt guilty about living with them any longer so he got out of there as soon as possible after the compensation was settled so he always feels awkward going back or confused when his parents ask to meet him. But even if Rody did disappoint them and ended up unsuccessful his parents still care/worry about him as he's their only son. Rody's convinced them that he's got a well-paying job and is doing good in the city so they have nothing to worry about and never forgets to send them money or expensive gifts often because he still feels sorry about not meeting their expectations and wants to make up for it somehow now even if it means he's going to struggle saving up money and needs to continue living in the shittest apartment imaginable because of the spending.

Rix: Vince grew up in a very stale environment, it was overwhelmingly bland which caused him to look for more exciting experiences elsewhere—specifically in experimentation with taste. His parents weren't especially attentive which allowed him to explore that passion freely. He'd play outside with bugs and stray animals, eat stuff off the ground, generally not have a lot of boundaries or understand social cues, and be allowed to cook food for himself if he wanted. Was still incredibly social with whoever was around but wouldn't be too bothered if people didn't stick around.

idk if I'm allowed to hang out w you...
?
You're like. gross! if I get sick because of you my mu's gonna be upset!
OH. But That Sounds made up.
thats a pretty dumb reason not to hang out wi someone...
WHAT ARE YOU EATING-
WORMS!

shes a stray but shes safe, I promise!
you can even pet her, she only bites sometimes-
Did you give her a bath??
Nah, but her fleas arent too bad-
my family's gonna be moving away tomorrow...
Oh, OK.. can I stop by before you go to give you something?
yeah, why cant I be the dog-
I can be the mom, you be the dad and he can be the dog!
Why am I the dog?? I wanna be the dad!

No, Really! Its Cool, Just try it!
m-mm.
Oh...
You're not supposed to give boys flowers!! those are for girls..
Then why'd the grave have a boy name?
...
hey where did you pick that flower from—
Thanks! So are you,
hehe~
You're really weird but you're funny sometimes..
MA!! SOMEONE'S OUT TO GET ME!!
SLAM
Ba-bump
Ba-bump
Left on his doorstep

it's ok!! you're ok, I promise!!
now you just need someone to kiss it better!!
Sniff
you were right, thank you...
Look! A lucky ladybug!
Oh! We should make a w-

Images depicting Rody, Vince, and Manon interacting as children aren't canonical but were used to flesh out their personalities from when they were younger.

whose kid is this!??
...Do you.. Need Anything??
thinks he's scary looking →

Rix: I've seen a lot of fans speculate that Vincent's upbringing was cruel but I'd say he had a pretty standard childhood. In reality I'd describe it more as his parents being loving but not very nurturing. I don't have any set reason as to why he lost his taste. Maybe he ate something he shouldn't have and it damaged his taste buds or there was an injury that caused it, or something else entirely. Whatever happened he became a lot more reserved afterwards, having lost one of his biggest passions in life before he had the chance to fully explore it.

Rix: His parents expected him to stop trying to become a cook but he persisted for some unknown reason—As he got older he worked through several food industry jobs and was surrounded by a very cutthroat schooling environment that had his usually quiet personality grow more blunt and defensive around those who showed any kind of doubt in him.

Rix: Vince rarely talks to his parents in his adulthood. Maybe on holidays or on birthdays but not often—It's hard for him to read them and despite owning an incredibly successful business neither has actually come to the city or seen it. He's never really bothered in looking for approval from them and there's no way in hell he'd ever ask them to visit in fear of looking like he's desperate but he still wouldn't mind if they actually got to see just what he'd accomplished.

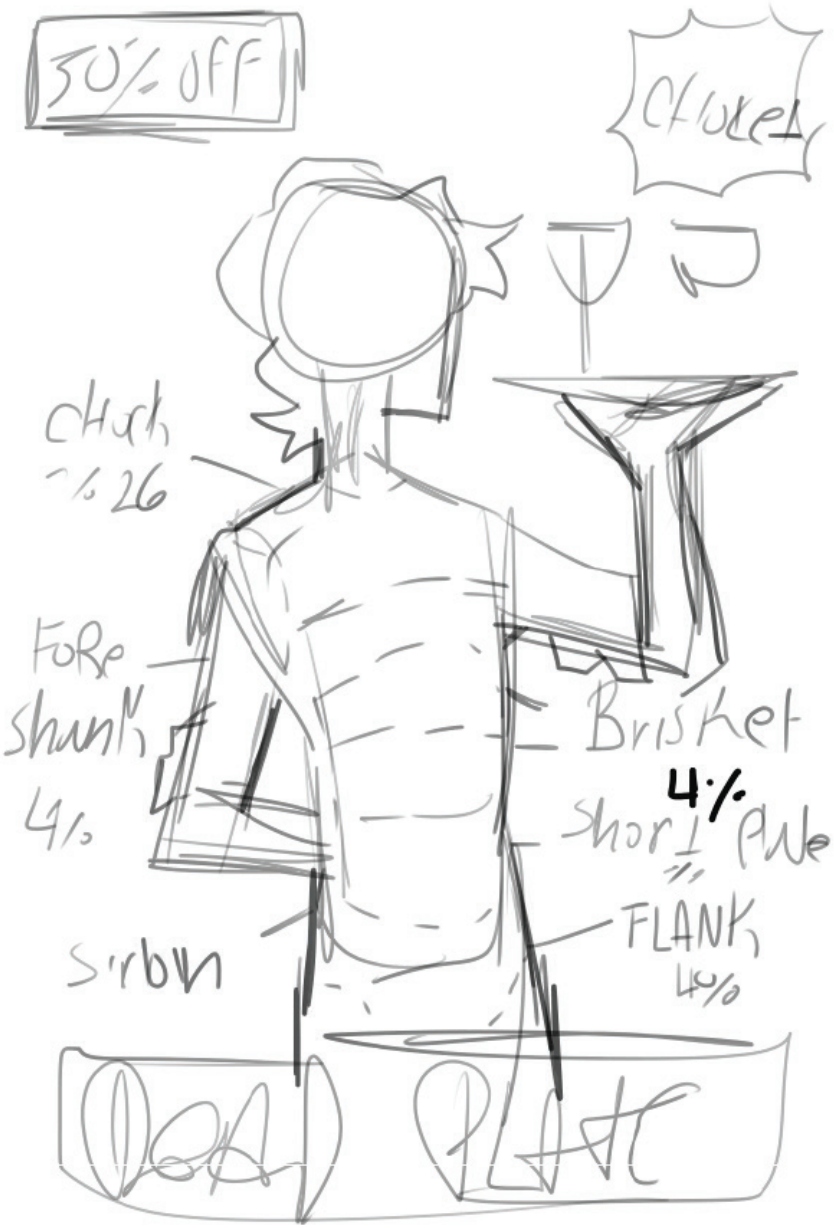
what?- should I tell them you're my boss too??
Hhhhey- so my parents are coming over to Paris this weekend but I really don't want them to see my apartment so can you do me a favor and say we're roommates and we've been living together at your place-
Would you like to take a look at his photo album?
oh, how sweet- I'd love to!
CRASH
Is that guy bullying you,
Well-
You guys must be really proud of Vince!!
I know my parents would be if I was him-
hey boss how do I ask for time off work again?? I'm gonna be out of town for a week..
visiting home
Sure, did you want your last paycheck before or after your break?
My mom's kind of terrible at cooking so we just order take out when we have guests over,
You take after your mom then,
Mm,
This is my childhood dog Brie! She was a really good girl,
D'awww, look at how handsome you are!! You must get a lot of ladies-
Thank you, ma'am, I do. Body can vouch for that-
You work at Vincent, right?
Come help me cook, I need someone to taste it while we work.
Ignoring letters from parents asking him to visit home
Let me fix your hair- have you been eating?
Yes-
Have you been going to church?
Yes-
Don't lie,

Tea's read—
MA.
Antique salt and pepper shakers, to never say no to what they ask, and newspaper.
oh yeah I was thinking to bring gifts for the visit—
What does your parents like??
Please help him find a girlfriend.
I'm pretty sure he's already got that covered..
Proud of what
LAST TIME??
For the love of God please eat what they offer you—
otherwise they'll clean out their entire fridge
feeding just me and I'll get so sick I won't be able to work for over a week like last time—
They're really not flashy..
You're wearing flashy clothes now?
I think you're shopping in the wrong aisle,
Roderick, would you like anything to drink? your options are water or milk.
Dad.
tastes the same as when he was a kid
oh thank god they don't drink that god awful nutrient slushie vince has in his place—
If it's only tasting then suuuure—
checking for fire extinguishers
Hello, It's so nice to meet you!
These look like womens clothes—
Don't worry, I'll be fine.
(Immediately f*cking it

Rix: They still love and care for him just as much as they did when he was a kid, if his entire restaurant fell apart and he had to move back in and never amounted to anything they wouldn't be disappointed or surprised in the slightest and would welcome him back home without any fanfare—which frustrates him more than anything. He puts enough pressure on his future that he hopes they would give him the decency to show excitement for his success and disappointment for his failures but instead they seem to just be happy and content that he's alive. When he goes to visit them his mom's cooking takes exactly as he remembers it did when he was a kid.

What do you mean she doesnt initially like me-
Man, sorry about that- My ma can be rude to people she initially doesn't like-
SMILING???
(wow, I didnt expect my mom to like you so much- she couldnt stop smiling
nod
nod
This is how she looks when shes mad.
okay now you've just messing wi me-
This is how she looks when shes smiling

STORY

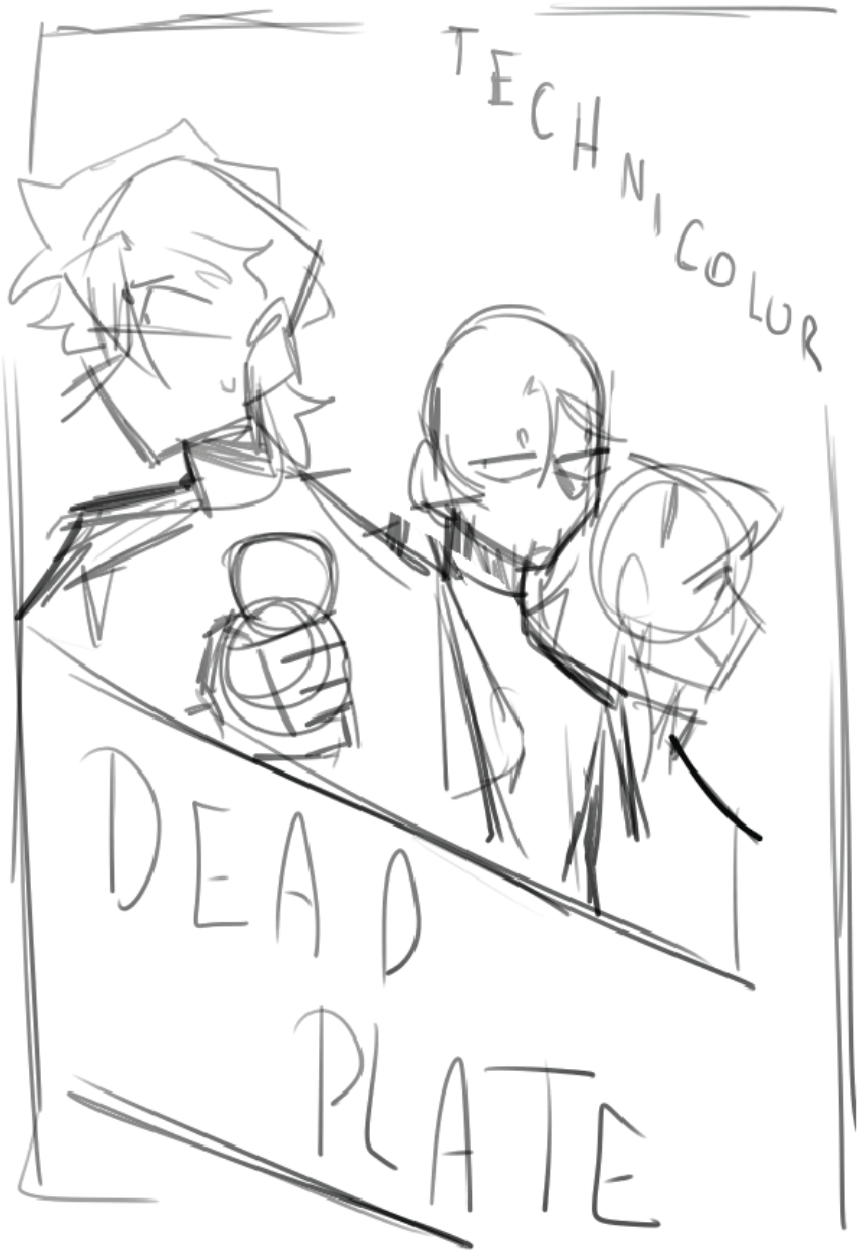


Initial sketches of the posters, designed to look like horror movie posters from the 1960's (1).

Final series of posters for Dead Plate release (1).

Initial sketches of the posters, designed to look like horror movie posters from the 1960's (2).

Final series of posters for Dead Plate release (2).



Initial sketches of the posters, designed to look like horror movie posters from the 1960's (3).

Final series of posters for Dead Plate release (3).

Rix: When first developing the characters and before it was decided that we turn it into a game I had a much different idea of the story and pacing. It was ultimately condensed in the process of things and a lot of that initial idea was muddied but ultimately if I had the desire to lengthen the game or rewrite it into a different medium their story might span multiple months rather than just a week. When first writing for the characters, their story worked better as Rody's last week rather than his first, following when he decides to quit and it all starts falling apart. Hypothetically Rody shows up to work for Vince after the breakup with Manon, giving their dynamic and relationship a bit more time to grow. With this time frame Manon would be given time to be introduced into the story where she and Vince begin dating once Rody's already been hired and he's frustratingly aware of it. The trade off is that while she becomes a more central character in the story she no longer adds the sense of mystery that haunts the narrative of the game.

Potentially then the story would culminate with a scenario where Rody's spent a lot of time with Vince and is fed up with Vince being a fundamentally bad person, Rody grows frustrated and Vince keeps digging the hole deeper for himself while trying to salvage his pride. Rody eventually tells Vince he's quitting and has his last week left which sets Vincent off and causes him to go through with the murder as one last chance of convincing him to stay. Manon's likely already told him she's not happy in the relationship and Vince can tell that everything's gonna end soon so the act of killing ends up being this greedy selfish act of desperation rather than some big planned motivation.

I'm not Asking Something Impossible out of you, I'M asking you to do your damn Job!!
I'm sorry sir, it won't happen again sir~
Visibly job searching during break
Casually grabbing him to get his attention
I'd appreciate it if you didn't touch me like we're close, sir.
Can you clean off table 4 actually~
"Were??
Still scared
When you first started working for me were you intimidated?
Not knowing what to do with the food he made for him
oh you don't need to get me lunch anymore sir, I've lost my appetite. I'll just focus on work which you seem to only care about.

Rix: Despite me complaining about the story and the different routes it could've taken I'm still happy with it and I think for the medium and the time frame we worked in the changes made to better add to the atmosphere and mystery in a shorter period of time worked out.

Rach: As Rix mentioned, while a lot of things did have to get rearranged or taken out when changes were being made to the story to fit its condensed game form I did enjoy getting to focus on highlighting the horrors of obsession and how love can be a strong motivating force not always in a positive way more heavily in this version of the story. As intense as the scenes turned out, I think it did help present the overall theme of the story directly and powerful enough for the audience that they were still able to taste all the main flavors of Dead Plate without having to know their original story or any other background lore and information, and I'm proud of how we managed to keep all the main essence of what we wanted to tell with the story despite shortening it by a lot.

Rix: If I could change anything about the final chase sequence it would be how Vince manages to be incredibly vague about his motivations while also just spending an entire scene outright saying them. I think I could've written it to be a bit more concise and explain the things it had to if I was less scared about Vince coming off too strong. But then the dialogue ended up coming off strong as hell so it ended up not mattering.

Endings

ENDING 1

We wanted to make the easiest ending for someone to see to be the one you get if you played the game "right", if you played Dead Plate strictly as a tycoon game it initially advertised itself as. The reason for this is we didn't want to force people to care about the story, for them to sit through and watch the story unfold on its own without any input from them—we wanted to give options for the players where only those who are interested in the characters and the ongoing mystery of the whereabouts of Manon can make a choice to go back and play the game differently to find the other endings and for those who didn't, they can leave the game at that after playing the tycoon sections which is still a game on its own.

We also thought just getting to see the reveal of what became of Manon in reverse when they play it a second time would hit harder. If you play the game normally you eat her unknowingly but if you beat it in a way where you take time and effort into investigating and burn down the restaurant, you never get the meal and therefore never eat her. So you win the ability to not eat your girlfriend by exploring further while blindly following what you're told to do, you blindly do something horrible. There's a level of reward in terms of knowledge to the player where while there's no way to save her, there's a way to be insightful and at least avoid eating her before you make the mistake of doing so.

Rach: I really enjoyed how simple yet tragic this ending is despite being the only ending where both Rody and Vince stays alive—how Rody is the only one who technically ends up being a cannibal here without realizing it, how Rody continuously calls Manon despite already being in the phone booth with her in the food container he's holding, how Vince went through all that trouble to cook a meal he thought Rody would love and only for it to completely be brushed past and all his efforts ending up to be nothing and never getting any proper sense of closure—and how his final attempt of trying to win over Rody only ends up making him spiral and obsessed with Manon even more as he would spend the rest of his life looking for her, thinking she's still out there and missing her despite her already being long gone and cooked into something unrecognizable.

In-story wise, Rody visits the bistro again not long after quitting to ask if he can put the missing posters of Manon up to Vince, which he lets him—and this can actually be seen within the game when the title screen changes after viewing Ending 1.

Not to make things comically dark but one of the possibilities from this ending could be that Rody gets arrested as a suspect responsible for Manon's disappearance and possible murderer instead of Vince after the detectives figure out their relationship troubles and all the obsessive calls Rody has been making towards her as a possible motive.

If Vince ever visits him in jail he'd meet Rody still in denial and frustrated about how everyone's assuming Manon's already dead and being worried more about how if he's gone there'd be no one else left to keep looking for her rather than about his own imprisonment or death. Rody would ask Vince that if he ends up convicted anyway he should keep looking for her on his behalf.

ENDING 2
I hate you.

Huh-
Maybe if you're fast enough you'll get out - Hell, I'll give you a 15 second head start
Go on! 14.. 13.. 12.. 11..
R... Really?
crawl

Rach: Vince is the most traditionally "villain-like" in this ending—he's sarcastic and blunt here more than usual, and to me, I always thought it's because he's probably had enough time to process things over after knocking Rody out in the freezer here unlike ending 3 which was cut short due to Rody escaping. He probably had a glass of wine in his office and allowed himself to get a little tipsy so that he can get that extra courage to go back in the freezer and carry out what he started.

Rix: He's having fun here more than usual. Vince isn't a sadist but he finds Rody being caught off guard amusing. He feels the same way about Rody trying to negotiate his way out of being killed and eaten as he does teasing Rody about his college major.

The title screen changes to snowy winter to represent the coldness in the freezer.

ENDING 3

Rach: One of the early iterations of Ending 3 had the idea of having the fire starting in the freezer by an accident during Rody's escape but I argued against it. I thought that if the fire was just an accident, while it is still technically caused by Rody, Rody's actions would have less of an impact. If everything he did was truly nothing but self-defense or accident from start to finish I felt like all he was there for in the game really was just getting pushed around without being able to bite back in a meaningful way. He'd be a character that did nothing wrong and while that's fine it felt like it made him one dimensional—like he had no choice in any of the actions he did to hurt Vince, he had no choice but to escape the freezer or stab Vince back because he was getting attacked first. Burning down the restaurant would be the only thing he chooses to do out of his own volition to hurt Vince back and I thought that'd make the ending more impactful instead of the "The fire just Happened to start and he needs to escape/chased out of the building right after his fight with Vince" ending.

Rix raised concerns if it'd be out of character for Rody compared to what the players would have seen of him so far. Still, I explained that since the game continuously establishes that one of the main drives for Rody's entire character is his love for his girlfriend, once he finds out Vince brutally murdered and desecrated the person he cared about the most it'd make sense for him to snap and want to take revenge—to give Vince the same feeling of lost and grief by getting rid of everything he knows that mattered to him in return which were his restaurant and his career he's been building up.

The whole game up to that point has shown Rody being tormented and growing steadily more anxious and unstable, and with all that build-up plus the adrenaline that came from escaping the freezer and the final fight with Vince, I believed the audience could understand that Rody is probably not in his best state mentally at the time and it'd deliver some catharsis where they could be both shocked or horrified by the implications of his actions but also get a feeling of semi-satisfaction of finally getting back at Vince in the end.

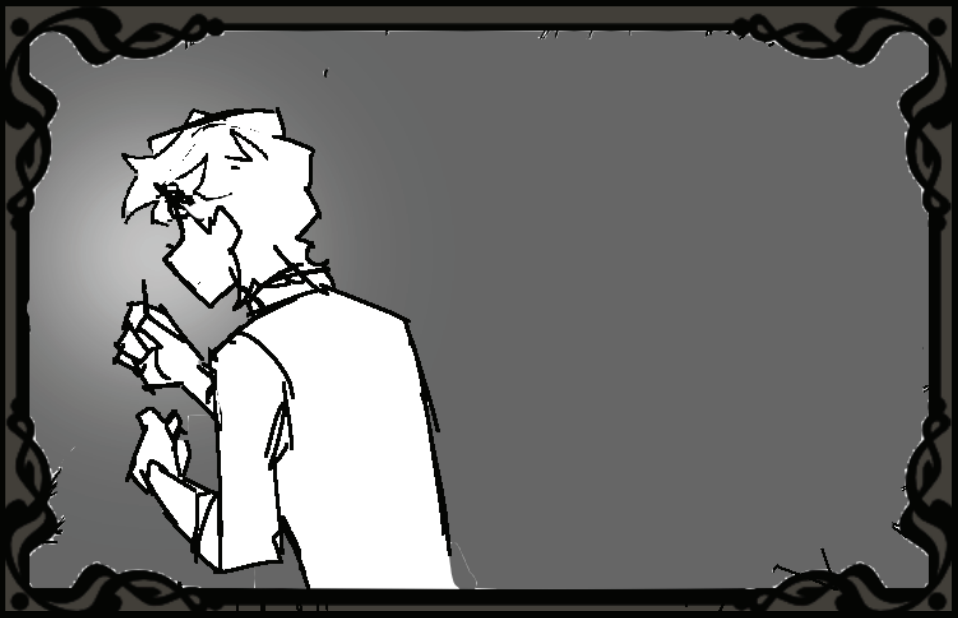
heh..
eheh...

I did think about the logical error where it'd be more beneficial for Rody if he didn't set the restaurant on fire and get the Police involved and expose what kind of a person Vince is to the public, but the thing is, Rody has never been a logical character. He's always been more of a "follows his heart" type of guy and he can be reckless and short-sighted because of it—I thought it'd be more tragic since logically speaking, yeah he'd want to preserve all the evidence and call for help, but with him being so full of hatred and in deep mourning, he fails to see the big picture and acts irrationally all for the sake of avenging Manon and misses his one chance to do that. With this in mind, we switched out Rody's reasoning for choosing to burn the restaurant that wasn't just "I don't want to get arrested" for something that shows more of his progression as a character where he started as this nice, passionate and lively guy ending up becoming someone dark and bitter.

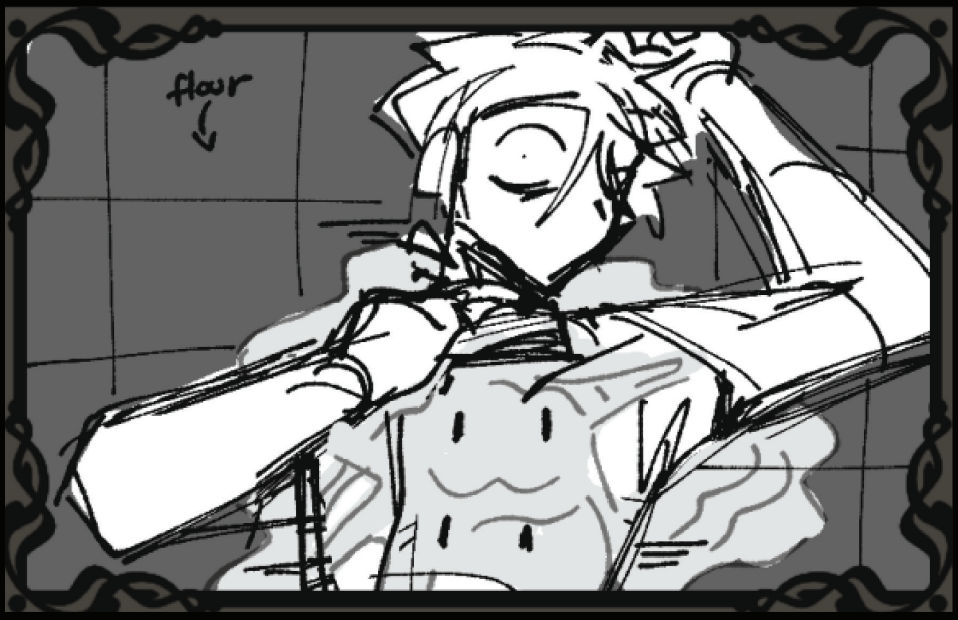
This direction of the ending also had the fun opportunity to serve as an ironic twist for the players since they probably were expecting Rody to be the one being cooked the entire game (hinted via nightmare sequences of him burning in the oven and such,) then it turned out to be the opposite where he's cooking and burning Vince instead.

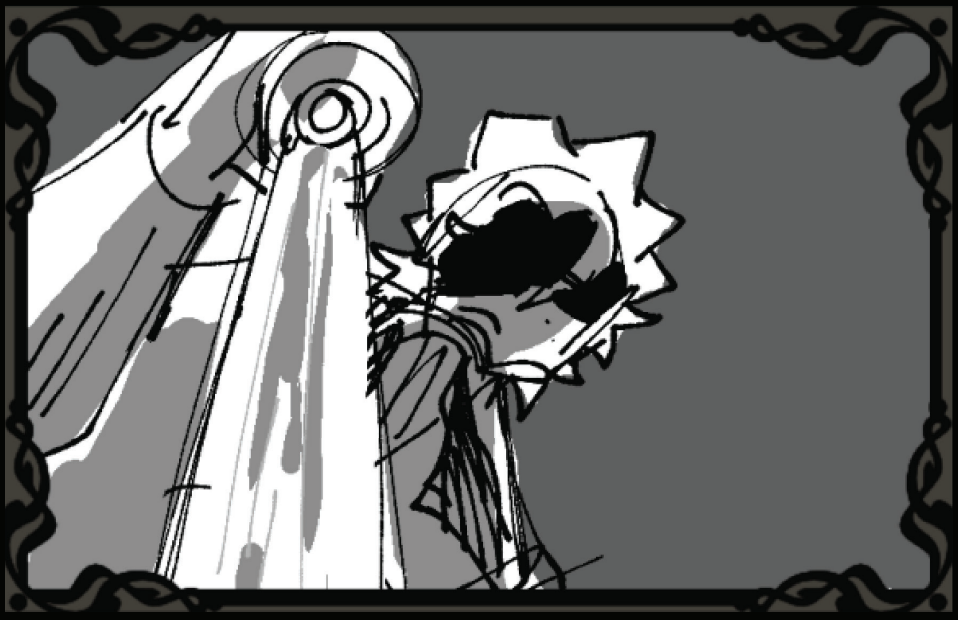
Surprisingly, I feel that this ending can be considered a "good" character development for Rody, because he learned that if he had just let go of Manon back then all this wouldn't have happened and how his self-sacrificing nature can cause harm to others, and he actually ends up putting his needs first in the very end ("I should go get something to eat"). The only way Rody could've realized what he's doing is bad in a way that feels in-character is if he sees just how destructive or reckless his love is and how distressing or harmful it can be to those around him that he loves.

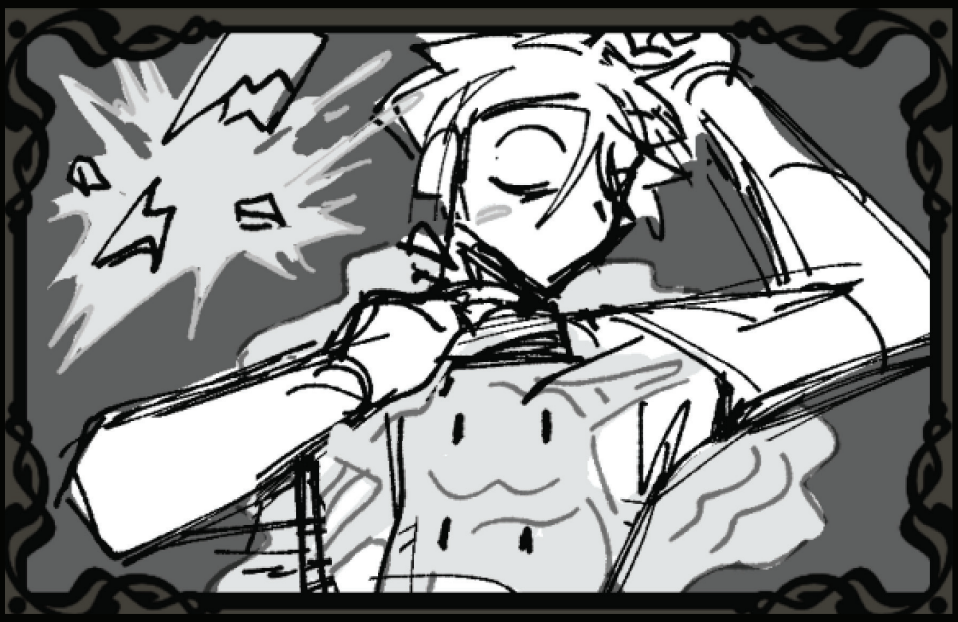
>TEXT HERE

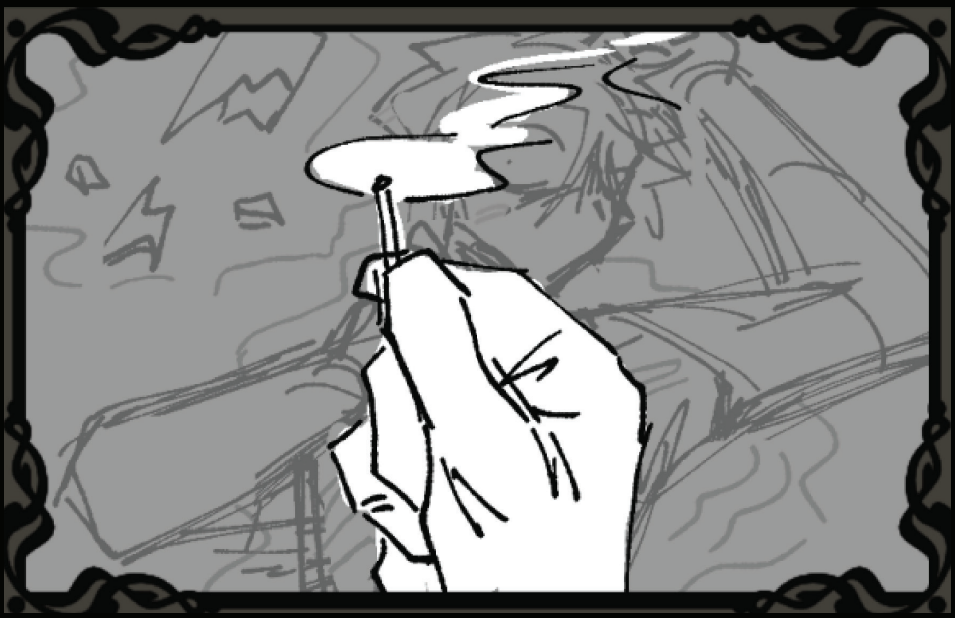


Original pitch for Ending 3 CGs didn't have Rody pouring oil directly onto Vince but Rach decided it wasn't aggressive and bitter enough so it was later changed.









The title screen changes to the burnt bistro, and if you look closely there's actually a rat!

ENDING 4

Rix: Shocker, but Vince doesn't get his taste back after eating Rody. Vince treats Rody with more compassion and dignity as a form of food than as a person and wouldn't really catch up to the fact that Rody is gone and not alive anymore despite him actively cutting him into pieces until he takes that first bite.

Rix: After Vince eats Rody he probably just goes to bed and wakes up hoping it was a weird and bad dream. He goes to work like normal and is terrified and dreading when Rody doesn't show up. He's equally dreading opening his fridge and seeing the rest of the meat still waiting to be prepared. He opens it expecting the relief that there's nothing there only to be reminded that what he did is there and waiting for him less it rot and decompose in his own apartment. Every time the fridge is closed he convinces himself he's seeing things. Every time he's at work he's expecting to see Rody working and the slow creeping knowledge that what he did really did happen deepens despite how unreal it feels. When Rody's mom calls him and asks why Rody isn't calling her back or when other workers complain about being short-staffed and that they need to hire someone to replace him it feels all the more like it actually happened and eventually, when the meat in his fridge starts rotting and the smell is too bad to ignore he finally realizes what he did was real. He's never seeing him again, he found happiness and devoured it and left none for the rest of the world.

>TEXT HERE

Alternative Endings and What Ifs

Everything about the base game has been already shared, now it's time to take a look at the bonus contents of Dead Plate! Here are some different scenarios that will never be canon at all but still found them as fun outcomes to at least think about.

Just to make it clear from the start—for Vince, no matter what possible ending or alternative universe he's in he's always going to be thinking of what could've been. There's a dark thought in the back of his head that maybe he'd be happy and could move on if he killed them when he had the chance—he's never going to be satisfied, he'll never be full.

MANON AND RODY GETTING MARRIED

Rix: I think these sketches were done pretty late into production when we'd already been drawing everything going wrong for them for several months and we wanted something more lighthearted. I'm pretty sure this would be the most straightforward idea of what would happen if Vince just wasn't as impulsive or intense and didn't kill Manon, leading to Rody and Manon happily leaving and him being miserable.

Rach: This seemingly impossible scenario happens when Rody quits after finally realizing he has self-worth, and that he deserves better and should prioritize his own needs after being mistreated by Vince multiple times during the months he worked and became closer to him—and Manon dumps Vince around the same time as Rody leaves.

Soon after that, Manon realizes Rody is finally taking care of himself with a healthier mindset and deems that he's ready for her to give their relationship another chance, so they get back together—things work out better than they thought they would, and they end up marrying each other.

Man I can't WAIT to get married and meet Rody Jr!!
Why??
Well you can barely take of yourself. How do you expect to take care of 2 others?
Why do you care? It's not like you're gonna be around to see it anyway-

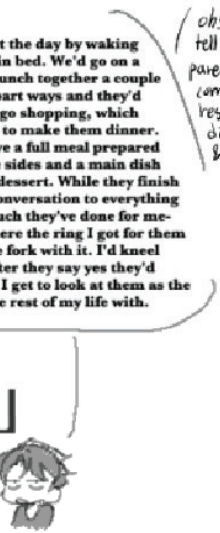
Rody gets a proper, stable job as a blunt but honest food critic who works with Manon's parents and becomes a proud father of a little girl named Rodney.

Vince and Manon remain as good friends so Rody still needs to see Vince from time to time and it's always hell for him.

I think it's really funny that what's considered Rody's ideal life is Vince's worst nightmare.

But I'd probably jut star
them up with breakfast i
walk around town or have l
hours later before we'd p
leave to get groceries or
would buy me enough time
When they got home I'd hav
for them with their favorite
that would pair best with the
their main dish I'd shift the co
I like about them and how mu
before bringing out dessert wh
would be placed around the
down and ask them and af
eat their favorite dessert while
person I'd be spending th

I still can't believe you don't want a marriage— I mean how could you not want to spend the rest of your life with someone you love and know the other feels the same way??
I still can't believe you want to pay for a ring, and a cake and her dress, a venue, food, seating, your tux, a house,—


t the day by waking
in bed. We'd go on a
unch together a couple
art ways and they'd
go shopping, which
to make them dinner.
e a full meal prepared
sides and a main dish
lessert. While they finish
nversation to everything
ch they've done for me-
ere the ring I got for them
fork with it. I'd kneel
ter they say yes they'd
I get to look at them as the
e rest of my life with.

oh!! I forgot to tell you but my parents and I are coming over to your restaurant for dinner tmrw & I told them you were paying <3
RAT
Be quiet

Follow
i've wanted to be a trophy wife since i was a little boy
<giving speech>

Keeping it together

good thing you came then, here..
You'd think you'd have learned to do this without my help by now.

You think so too??
doesn't get it

Psh, who wasn't an expensive wedding or screaming kind anyways?

Oh! I'm going out with my friends today so I called Vince over to help you babysit!
You what-
Fake
think abt manon
think abt manon
think abt manon
barely holding himself back from punching him
Ew, why's it look like that
Its her own mobile! pretty great, right?
Plus its cooking themed,
You wanna take that down yourself or do you want me to swat it down towards your direction-

Wait Vince, before you go- I do still appreciate you being good friends with Maron and coming over whenever she asks - Look, I actually have money to buy proper gifts now! Thanks for taking care of her,
Thanks, it's really no trouble- And I'll take this but you should know I 100% already own it.
wrapped frying pan
Fine then, you don't have to take it -
-Well let's not be hasty.
<- Desperate for any gift from Rudy
water

Oh! I'm going out with my friends today so I called Vince over to help you babysit!
You what-
Fake
So you seeing anyone new?
Treating him right this time?
Thanks, its really na
And I'll take this but Should Know I 100%
already ow
it.
Wait Vince, before you go- I do still appreciate you being good friends with Marion and coming over whenever she asks- Look, I actually have money to buy proper gifts now! Thanks for taking care of her,
wrapped frying pan
Its her own vocabolo! pretty great, right?
Plus its cooking themed,
You wanna take that down yourself or do you want me to shout it down towards your direction-
Fine then, you don't have to take it-
Why not just let her stay here for the night, thatd be way easier.
Heavy furniture
Sharp corners everywhere
Smells like cigarettes
It'd be way easier for me to kick you out too and yet here we are.
tap
tap
Care package he made for Marion
Widyan shes not allowed to eat whatever bugs she finds-
Psst-
Cause your parents Divorce-
Alright, It was good seeing you, thanks for bringing Rodney, Bye.

A model, actually, yeah.
Nu, Not over here-
I need to get a baby lock...
cleaning supplies
think abt manon think abt manon think abt manon
barely holding himself back from → punching him
Ew, whys it look like that
Does the restaurant still look the same?
Any new changes?
old waiter uniforms
the same as realy left it
Um. yeah. Not much, no...
huh. maybe I should visit sometime for old time's sake.
If you want, Im sure the cooks would like to see you
Yeah, I uh. Let's just say I'm banned from that hospital now
Oh man that sounds intense. was there a lot of blood, did you think she was gonna die or something?
oh my god do bugs turn you into a major asshole- I need to make her spit them out-
I'm trying to be responsible and a good husband/dad-
Do you not drink anymore! What did you turn catholic when you became a dad, too?
Water
This is my girlfriend!!
Your wife, Rody-
My wife!! Even better!!

Maybe killing and eating him would work out.
Where did you say you were working?... And is the cardigan apart of the uniform?
It makes me feel professional while writing from home
Ubbthh
that so?
Abbtb
sounds Rough
Wwwbtk
doesn't know how to baby talk
I don't like him
Oh!- I..
Thanks, tha
means a lot
especially co
from you,
Dd..
Da..
Duu.. D..
D..
Christ you look horrible-
Divorce.
forces himself to drink coffee
So he's married life with him treating you, what's he been like?
He wakes up crying about how lucky he is every morning, it's honestly really stupid and funny-
<4AM>
Why won't she stop crying..
I think she misses Vince..
<4am>
You should call him. He just lies on the bed staring at the ceiling around this time
How do you know that
ah..
Alright, sorry I gotta head off, I need to watch the baby in an hour.
THE WHAT-
Dont find this endearing
Dont start crying
Dont find t endearin

Y'know, you look real happy w/ her,,
'Cause I am! Couldn't have asked for any other way ♡
.... Not with Mommy with Rodney.. Im glad you're able to have that.
Nightmare
dream
Very. She gets it from your side, for sure.
Look at how cool she is just like her mom!
Everything will turn out for the best for you Vince-
trying to reassure him
VINCENT. OUT OF THE KITCHEN. NOW.
The back burners are used for things that have to stay on t...
Hoping they'll call so he can have something to do
I swear dad's being kind of a fucknut today, isn't he-
What do you mean will? what about my life isn't okay-
Is there any thing... else. I can get for you-
forgot to actually write the review >:
his morning Smoothie
Bubble

Here- Try telling her a story and I'll play along with it!
Hm.. Alright.
You're lucky you're holding Rodney right now or else I would be hit you with my guitar
Once upon a time, there was a man-eating bear-
passed out on Vince's couch
Yeah, they're staying for the night, they're too tired
Too much to hold her for long
Want to give her back?
Yes, please
Pff
You did great!
Wow, Yeah, you're doing it.
This never happened, this stays between us- your parents will be the ones to see your first steps- GOT IT??
FIRST STEPS

The hell-! she was eating Him!
SLAP
Ahhh
AAAAAA
Marking her baby food recipes
Oh my god. That fuck was trying to poison me-
Look I uh.. I appreciate you bringing food for Rodney but I think it'll be best if we just stick to what she was already eating-
-what- but Mariam said she liked it-

It depends- what reasons would you guys have to?
Oh right! Rody brought up ideas about moving to a different city to help Rodney. What do you think??

<later>
HER FIRST STEPS!

I wouldn't be able to help as much if you moved....
But its whatever you think is best for her.
Well he said something about there being a bad influence-

VINCE SURVIVES AFTER ENDING 3

This scenario happens after ending 3 of the main game, where Vince miraculously manages to survive somehow after being stabbed and burnt alive.

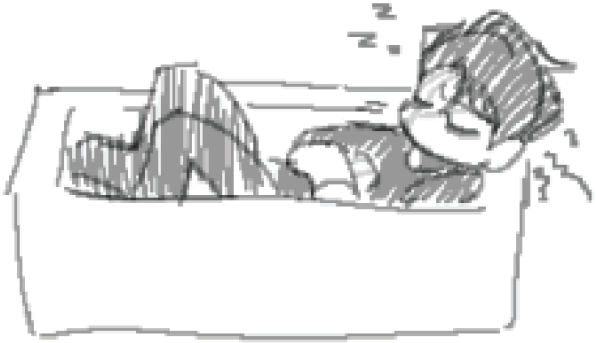
POST-
GAME
AU
Can't taste/eat
meat anymore
w/o throwing up
<grocer>
DON'T
NOTICE
ME

Trying to avoid being spotted
why does he feel familiar..
..I think you got the wrong guy.. I dont know who you are-
HOW ARE YOU NOT DEAD.
you do look a bit familiar, maybe we do know eachother-
DOES COOKING MY GILLFRIEND AND EATING MY EAR RINGS ANY BELLS TO YOU??
Oh yeah.. Rowan, how could I forget-
picking another wine bottle
FREE
Got a light?

Do you at least regret it?
Why should I. you're the one that asked for the job.-
SLAP-
the funny thing is- a part of me is still relieved to see you again- that I didn't end up being an actual murderer,
fucking insane, right?!
Yeah, almost as insane as setting someone on fire and not calling for help.
flick-
If it helps, she died peacefully. Wasn't scared or in pain or anything.

Hey. your front door is locked. Rody. Rody, its raining. If I say Im sorry will you open the window. Hey. Hey-
VOLUME

This place isnt even as bad as your last apartment. Thanks for letting me use the bed.
Wasnt let in.
How the hell did I tolerate you before-



sigh
toss

When are you planning to leave?
You could just live here.
I can't?

Rach: I think it'd be fucked up if as time passes, to his horror, Rody starts looking and acting more like Vince. He'd get heavy eye bags, look more pale, lose weight. He's unable to eat any meat without feeling the urge to throw up immediately after, his former lively personality entirely dying out and only left as someone whose passion and purpose in life have been forcibly stripped away and that's forever bitter about it. Post-game Rody has nothing to live for anymore and desperately wants to stop existing but refuses to let himself die not because he's scared of death itself but because there's a possibility of meeting Vince again after and be stuck with him in the afterlife. He takes a glance at the mirror and then feels his heart sink thinking Vince was there with him for a moment.

hope it hurt like hell.
Cant see in one eye
Cant smell
Cant taste
Cant feel most anything on left side of body
the only thing Vince hasn't ruined it for him
Abt to ruin it for him
i need to move on...
him

Despite everything, I think Rody can't help but still feel guilty for murdering Vince and blames himself more than the man who actually killed Manon—all of this started because of his love, if it wasn't for him Vince and Manon wouldn't have met, Vince wouldn't have gotten the idea to kill her in the first place if he didn't talk about her all the time and moved on like he should've.

As messed up as it sounds, if Rody meets Vince again after ending 3 he'd actually be relieved that he didn't turn out to be a murderer in the end. The interaction and just knowing Vince is still alive makes him a million times more antsy but also weirdly makes him feel comforted knowing that he didn't kill him and justified about there still being something to be upset over and he doesn't need to move on just yet. While he hates his fucking guts he'd never bring up the courage to try and finish the job of killing him again, he'd rather want to see him suffer and live a long, utterly miserable life.

were you also gonna eat me if I hadn't escaped-
well not "also". you'd have been the only one I tried. IM not the one that ate MANNON,
You hate me too right?? I destroyed everything you worked for and left you to die- Aren't you here for revenge??
???
why would I want revenge? Im the one that hired you,-
checking if he's a ghost
poke
poke
I just still can't believe you survived that-
GOT THAT OUT-

As much as he hates to admit it Vince would be one of the only people he'd know that Manon was close to or still remembers her despite it all so he'd unconsciously want to keep him around just for that connection but he absolutely hates his guts so he'd use this opportunity to make his life miserable back to cope. He'd put him in the same shoes as he was before in terms of the power dynamic since he knows Vince would die without him.

Rix: Post-game Vince doesn't have as much to be proud of anymore so his ego isn't as intense as it used to be—but he still doesn't know where he'd even start if he apologized. He constantly feels upset and frustrated at how things turned out but isn't emotionally mature enough to realize those feelings are guilt towards his own actions and not just frustration about things not having gone as planned. He doesn't realize that he'd be just as guilty and upset if everything went right—so he ends up stuck in the conflict of wanting to see the original plan to the end while also being relieved that Rody's still alive and not wanting to lose that.

Rix: Vince would constantly think about Rody after surviving and be angry and want some sort of revenge but would also feel guilty and upset and messy about how he deserved everything he's gotten. If they were to meet by chance again he would be caught off guard and feel an overwhelming fear but also relief that he's still ok. Vince is worried that Rody could rightfully kill him at any time but also just happier knowing that he's still alive and chose not to kill him on sight and that the bistro being destroyed wasn't their final goodbye.

Don't feel bad for him
Don't feel bad for him
Don't feel bad for him-

AUs

Alternate Universes

This guy looks normal compared to my Vince-
OH, you arent drawn to eat humans alive? Sorry, we over reacted
IF you dont drink human blood what DO you eat?
JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE OTHER ME'S DOING?!?!
TELL US WHY WE SHOULDNT KILL YOU.

Rach: We apologize ahead of time that all the content from now on are all very non serious and self-indulgent and so far from their canon iterations at this point, even more-so than what was shown in the previous section. Sorry about that. Hope you enjoy.

Monster All

The hell are you
(first meeting)
hh..
Ugh, put on some real clothes.
his dead butlers clothes
so generous..
Here, try not to eat too fast, I cooked enough for you to get your energy back
Why does this meat smell just like the clothes
heightened sense of smell
his dead butler

..eh? what time is it, it's still early..
It's ore in the afternoon-
coffin??
Everything that isn't blood tastes rotten to him
oh no, did you get hurt-
hey so uh I might've completely shattered your bathtub-
Cant hypnotize Animals

Poof
When low on blood his powers stop working/fade
oh!! Do you do your own cooking?-
was super worried he had to cook for someone
Could you go into town and get some lamb chops- I need them for a recipe,
Likes having someone to cook for
Where'd he go-
Just how many women is this guy seeing-

Whimper—
??
THERE IT IS!—
When he first turned

Night Vision/Glowing Eyes

CRACK
CREAK
SNARL

SNARL
HISSS
ROAR-

What's gotten into you~
AWOOO
howling sadly
(misses manon)
GRRHARKHRK~
Vine's portrait
Can't see his own face any other way
Hiding from/forcing away from him when has transformed
(Alright, fine, fine~
Threatening
asking to go out on a night walk
prefers livestocks than human as food

1
Thank God he got out. I can finally rest...
2
I wonder IF he's coming back
3
4
Pfft- Did you make it past the town?
You didn't come after me,,
Would you like me to?
Watched over him as a bat

Quick Quick-
You okay?

If I ever try to hurt you, I- you're more than fair to kill me, you don't have to feel guilty, okay..?
I didn't hurt you, right??
PANTS. RODY.
I don't think whether I'm willing would be the issue
Does it hurt? when you transform
AAAAAAAAAAAA
POOF
CRACK
I wish it was less dramatic..
So you really own this giant castle all to yourself?
yeah, who else would it belong to-
Mainly cooking books
browsing Vince's library for books on his condition
Huh.. Doesn't that ever get lonely?
No, I need you to sweep the 3rd floor halls
But I just did that floor-
Right, yeah..
Doesn't want to be alone in the castle again
hopefully I can get whatever's going on w/ me under control so I can leave you and your castle be soon-
<- wants to get the fuck outta here

... you planning on eating me?
checking to see if he's gonna scratch him again
POOMF

- used to work at her manor
- had to break up bc of class difference
Oh! here, come inside- you must be freezing, my dear-
that fucking dog better not eat her before I do-
What a funny looking castle!!
this is my- uh dog. its imported from russia-
why hasn't he attacked her yet??
What a funny looking dog!!
Jerk.
not even a sip?

POOF!
oh hi!! How did a bat get in here?
← doesn't know it's Vince
resting once has human again
Ah - sorry, did I alarm you?-
Squeak!
EEEEEK!!

<waking up to find him heavily injured>

Rach: Aside from just us wanting to make a classic vampire and werewolf duo around Halloween time when these sketches were first drawn, the general premise of this AU is that Rody's a recently turned werewolf and after almost hurting Lady Manon, he's quarantining himself away from humans by staying and working as a servant for Vince in his castle pretty far from the village. He doesn't know Vince is a vampire yet.

It follows the usual dynamic of Vince being overbearing and controlling and Rody being terrible at his job but dealing with Vince's bullshit shifts into something more complex where Rody can and does genuinely overpower Vince half the time and his time spent doing what Vince asks is out of guilt and gratefulness for still being allowed to stay despite being something that can kill him. Rody doesn't initially know what Vince is but Vince catches onto Rody's deal by his first transformation so Rody ends up being like "This guy is rude and weird but he's handling the fact that I turn into a dangerous monster really fucking well so I can deal with it" so their back and forth/give and take codependency is more highlighted here.

Rody would feel so much more terrible about saying no or leaving Vince in this universe since he's wrecked his home and has physically hurt him and caused him trouble multiple times, he'd be more apologetic and obedient/patient even if Vince mistreats him since he believes he deserves it. That's his master!

Zombie Outbreak AU

. . . C'mon you're gonna catch a cold-
oh I'M gonna catch it huh?
You need to LEAVE.
HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT! YOU'RE FINE. You barely got bit, stick with me-
trying snap o of it
Sure, I don't plan on dying before you only way
Can I loot your jacket when you die

Innocent living survivor
WHATS WRONG? D'you Have a Storing Problem?
Nah, Just Dead ones.
Did you find any survivors?
I Thought we Had 20 cans Left..
Memory Getting Worse
That was a week ago—
You feelin' okay Boss?
I honestly Can't imagine you ever turning into a zombie
Yeah, Its nothing.
found a family photo while looting a random house
ThHeEy looked so happy...
I just need a Smoke probably...
Im sure they made it out fine.
Just finished looting their bodies
Funny. I was just about to say how you're looking more like Someone they'd eat.

Elaborate.
Bring it in!!
Do you think zombies can talk to each other
ok that's too tight
How long have you been thinking abt this.
like, for example if I bit you and you became a zombie and it turned out we can understand each other wouldn't that be super awkward. like "oops sorry I ate all your organs out"
I take it back I take it back I don't want your jacket
Don't die Don't die-
Doesn't know jack shit abt first-aid
<later>
GHRKHk
(I knew it)
Just fucking sew it up-
frantic nodding
Hungry..
I just poison-checked this!!
You Poisoned it??
?
Rapidly Developing Dementia
Groin Bite
CAUSE YOU ALREADY LOOK LIKE ONE!!
ips back his original ck-self more often

IT Doesnt MATTER If you dont want to eat it, you need to keep your Strength-
Your gross canned food is gonna run out eventually- Plus its expired...
* Ignoring *
HIRE ME HIRE ME HIRE ME!!
Killed a zombie that was abt to jump at Vince
Choosing to ignore it/not acknowledge it.
Better, Probably.
What would you do w/o me!
POKE
POKE
SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT

I'M SORRY, SIR- THE BISTRO IS NOW CLOSED
LET ME IN LET ME IN LET ME IN
Did you try to lock me out.
-No.
Quick, Cover yourself in this-
YOU'RE SICK IN THE HEAD!!!
Fine, I'll do it for you-
HIGH PITCHED SCREAM

Don't you have a friend or family to go back to?
Any loved ones?
Dont you?
Want Any Jerky?
Its beef, Promise
YOU PROMISED!!
* 2 HOURS LATER
I LIED ABOUT THAT Being Beef
PPPFFF

...Who Are Yo...u Again?
I can't..
I Can't do it.
I love her.
H..Here,
YOUR PROBABLY HUNGRY
...
SHE WOULDNT do THE SAME FOR YOU!!
NOBODY would do the same for you! ITS WHY THOSE ASSHOLES LEFT YOU, YOURE BEING A LIABILITY!
EAT
Up...

Rix: In the breaks between game development one of our friends started a ttrpg game themed around zombies and we were in too deep on Dead Plate so we ended up playing as Rody and Vince. It was a welcome break from game devving and a fun experiment seeing how Rody and Vince's banter could work in a high stress setting.

Demon AU

LET'S MAKE A DEAL
LET'S MAKE A DEAL
LET'S MAKE A DEAL
After too many possessions
EH?
no no no you can't be a demon—
doesn't wanna see him for all eternity
THEN FIX IT.
OW
OW
What would you know abt angelic duties-
Dont do anything stupid...

low on demonic energy
I DON'T NEED IT I DON'T NEED IT I DON'T NEED IT-
Why? I sacrificed one to summon you-
Then let me know when you decide to start
...?
There's definetly a special place waiting for you in hell
Whats wrong w/ you, what do you need
Could you... gimme a drop of your blood...
Pose
Quick, Hide Before Someone sees you-
??

f you need
nother sacrifice
I did see some
kids running
uround
If this is what demons are like I dont really understand why God was so hellbent on telling us to fear you..
I can be super tempting if I wanted to!!
Much less worry abt being tempted ...
SLAM
Repent for what??
It's not too late!!
I'm sure there's still good in you somewhere—
If you break the deal now and repent
I'm sure you'll still go to heaven!!
fixion
closet

Do you really plan to keep this deal going??
Are you not afraid of hell??
Who says I'm going to hell,

tap
tap
Flick
Flick

Trying to figure out what he summoned
IMP
FALLEN
INCUBUS
SUCCUBUS
What'd you eat in hell, anyways?
You don't wanna know,

It's. uhh- Cute??
Whats even the point of this
Doesn't actually Know
What do you use it for?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?! I'M NEW HERE TOO!!
And why the Hems?? Do you ram other demons like Sheep?

Rix: If I'm remembering right the plot of the Demon au was that Rody was a recently fallen angel who was turned into a demon for the sin of loving Manon more than God, and Vince was an overly ambitious priest. They strike a deal where Vince allows Rody to possess him so he can hopefully communicate with Manon again in exchange for Vince using Rody's demonic powers to more efficiently manipulate and control others.

Cowboy All

Heya partner! Wanna ride with me?
talking abt the horse.
Where did you say you were from again?
Ugh, he should be here by now...
WAAAAAAAAAH AAAAAAAAAH
I'll keep an eye out.
Watch out for this one, Mr. Barkeep! He's mean enough eat off the same with a snake!
Why do you always kidnap her on the days we have dates???
If you keep bothering other patrons by yelling about your girlfriend I'm going to have to cut you off-
You'll get find a someday

JAIL
whatre you looking at?
tried to hijack Rodys Horse
no No! Stop, Stop! DOWN, HEEL-
Wow, thanks, I might have to "shave" it then,
Ya'know, if you shaved that mustache you'd sure be one heck of a charmer!
to plate
...
Will do.
...Right, um- uh. Hold still-
not very good at tying him up
it when you girl/lady for yourself Barkeep!!! he's a gem!!! The world has to know!!!
cartoony storage

Mermaid AU

Version 1 (Mermaid Vince, Pirate Rody)

trying to lure him in the tank so he can drown him
oh, are you ready then?
tried to escape
I wonder if its starting to expire..
I can so easily kill him..
Do you taste more like a fish... or more like a person?
actually can't speak

Version 2 (Mermaid Rody, Pirate Vince)

Misc. AU

AU where Rody gets a job at Mime Joyeux, a fast food restaurant across the street of La Guele de Saturne instead of working for Vince.

IF HE WAS
FUCKING NORMAL
AU ->

<AU where he never worked for Vince>
HEY YOU! check out our place if you're hungry!!
Thinks he's too poor to -> afford fast food
... I dont know.... My Palate might not be refined enough for your food..
Palate?
refined?
have you?! not had any fast food before??

on the house!
I can't imagine your boss being okay with that.
'Course he's fine with it! He's like my best friend!!
Thanks for the food
TRASH

Body Swap All

This is the best.
Stomach ache from eating too much too fast
He lives like this?? Really??
I'll take one of everything on the menu
TOM AND JERRY SCREAM
muscle..
My restaurant is gonna close down.
UGH, I Can't Believe I'm the one left w/ the sour end of the deal-

he lives like this??? really???
how does this taste I can't tell—
YOU CAN KEEP IT!!
TAKE IT BACK!!

THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE!!
COUGH
COUGH

Body Swap
AU

SWAP
AU..

Closing

Rach: I think it's really crazy that despite writing an entire book about this game there are somehow still tons of things left unsaid here that've been exchanged between me and Rix. Dead Plate was the first game that I worked on outside of short, month-long game jams with almost an entire year of work poured into it. These characters and their story holds such a dear place in my heart and I'm so proud of what the team managed to create in the end. I sincerely can't thank the fans enough for loving them as much as we do, and for making something like this very art book that you're reading now possible.

Rix: I couldn't be prouder and happier to have gotten the chance to work on something like this, especially with Rach. It's the hardest I'd ever worked on a single project and seeing such a positive reaction to it has been such an exciting experience. It feels cheesy to say but with the amount of love and effort and creativity I've seen from fans in response to the game I really hope to put that same amount of care into future games as fans have given us.

Thank you for dining at La Guele de Saturne, we hope you return soon!

OFFICIAL ART BOOK

An inside look into the development and production of the indie game, Dead Plate.

With commentary from game developers Rach and Rix, this book contains early production art, concept sketches, and character studies that explore the lives and relationships of its main cast.

Bon Appétit!

STUDIO
INVESTIGRAVE